

Portfolio

There was no winner of last Saturday's £20,000 prize on the weekly Times Portfolio competition, which means that next Saturday's weekly prize is doubled to £40,000. The winner of Saturday's daily £2,000 prize is reported on the back page. Today's competition panel - page 16.

THE TIMES Tomorrow

Rock legend music, religion and politics



Outrageous

Fashion goes to college

Bush telegraph

From his jungle HQ Angola's rebel leader Jonas Savimbi addresses Western ears

Educating teacher

Roger Scruton pleads for better teachers

Tinning's tales

Teddy Tinning, doyen of tennis fashion, remembers the best women players as Wimbledon celebrates the women's singles' centenary

Dioxin found in Scottish soil sample

A form of the poison dioxin has been found in soil samples taken near a chemical waste factory at Bonnybridge, in central Scotland, and 16,000 residents have signed a petition demanding the plants closure until there are assurances that it is safe.

There is alarm in the area about babies born with eye defects, cattle dying, and the level of cancer cases. Page 3

Bolivian plotters refused asylum

Six people who took part in the failed coup in Bolivia were refused political asylum at the Argentine Embassy in La Paz and were transferred to the Venezuelan Embassy. Page 5

Banking fears

Clearing banks are having second thoughts about their plan for a national electronic link with retailers, fearing that it could make banks become obsolete. Page 4

Turner pledge

Mr John Turner, Canada's new Prime Minister, promised measure to make government more efficient and united he would not call a snap election. Page 8

Lager launch

Budweiser, America's best selling lager beer, is to be launched in Britain on Wednesday in one of the most expensive promotions so far of a beer product. Page 17

Henley joy

The Henley Royal Regatta was a triumph for the British crew, who won six of the seven main events, the other victory going to Denmark. Page 21

Gallant Piggott

Lester Piggott, riding Teososo, was injured before the Grand Prix de St-Cloud but won the race with blood pouring down his face. Page 19

Leader page 13
Letters: On shotgun control, from Lord Harris at Greenwich; land conservation, from Sir Ralph Verney, and others; parliamentary reform, from Mr W. Cassin, MP, and Mr J. A. W. Ambler.

Leading articles: Irish Forum; the next Post Laureate; Features, pages 10-12; The Archbishop of Canterbury's answer to rising divorce figures; Nicholas Timmins on the failure of the social security bureaucracy; Monday Page; the summer speaks out; Spectrum; Magdi Yacoub and the heart transplant patients.

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Russia spurns US response on 'star wars' talks

● Moscow has rejected President Reagan's swift agreement to the Russian offer of talks on banning space weapons as "totally unsatisfactory".

● US officials denied that Mr Reagan had laid down preconditions, and said they were not discouraged by Moscow's response. Page 6

● A summit meeting is possible between Mrs Thatcher and President Chernenko but depends on East-West relations in the coming months.

● Sir Geoffrey Howe arrived in Moscow yesterday for the first substantive visit by a British Foreign Secretary since 1977. Page 6

From Richard Owen, Moscow

The Kremlin yesterday turned down an opportunity to take some of the chill out of East-West relations, rejecting as "totally unsatisfactory" President Reagan's agreement to hold talks on banning weapons in space.

Apparently taken aback by Mr Reagan's swift response to their proposal for talks, put forward late on that Mr Reagan had made unacceptable preconditions and was not interested in "business-like, constructive talks".

A Tass statement left the door open, however, by saying that the Soviet offer of September talks in Vienna on the demilitarization of space remained in force.

Tass said Moscow hoped the Reagan Administration would take "more serious and responsible attitude".

Diplomats pointed out that the White House had not laid down preconditions when it accepted the talks within hours of the Soviet proposal.

American officials said Washington wanted to discuss both the resumption of talks on medium-range and strategic nuclear missiles and "verifiable and effective limitations on anti-satellite weapons", but the two were not linked. The United States would attend the proposed Vienna talks on space weapons even if Moscow refused to discuss nuclear missiles as well.

In an indication of Russian discomfiture, the media did not report the American response at the weekend but said Washington was still "studying" the proposal. Moscow television said the Soviet Union had "called Reagan's bluff".

"It now looks as if it was Reagan who called the Russians' bluff", one Western diplomat remarked yesterday.

Both Russia and the US have been trying to prove for months that it is the other side which is intransigent. Diplomats said Russia's rebuff to Mr Reagan gave him the advantage, "which will not hurt him in the election campaign".

Mr Reagan has already softened his "trigger happy" image by offering to meet President Chernenko, and by listing 16 American peace offers, including proposals for new cultural and consular exchanges.

Observers said the Russians were deeply worried by the fast development on American space weapons technology and had made the offer in the hope of obtaining a moratorium on testing. In the event, however, the fear of enhancing Mr Reagan's image as a peace-maker and helping him to be re-elected had outweighed worries over the US space arms programme in Kremlin calculations.

Moscow had hoped for a "freeze" on space weapons

during protracted talks about talks, diplomats said, rather than the prompt and positive answer they received on Friday.

The Russian offer marked the first time Moscow had named a time and place for talks. It suggested a ban on all anti-missile defences in space - the "star wars" system now being developed by the US - and on anti-satellite weapons, coupled with a moratorium on testing and deployment from the day the talks opened in September.

Washington has announced major space weapons tests for the autumn, while the Soviet programme is already far advanced.

Yesterday's Tass statement said Washington's response had been "hastily released" and avoided the essence of the problem.

Tass said the Geneva missile talks had been thwarted by American deployments, which Nato had still not reversed. "The Americans would like to preserve this stalemate while hindering talks on the demilitarization of space and... turning outer space into a springboard for aggression and a threat to mankind", Tass said.

● LOS ANGELES: Former President Richard Nixon has said "star wars" weapons technology should be shared with the Soviet Union to ensure that such arms never become a shield for a nuclear first strike (AP reports).

Young boost huge lead for Reagan

From Nicholas Ashford, Washington

President Reagan has taken a massive 19-point lead over Mr Walter Mondale, the likely Democratic presidential nominee, according to a Gallup Poll released at the weekend.

His lead is the largest an incumbent president has enjoyed at this stage in the race since 1964, the year of President Lyndon Johnson's landslide victory over Senator Barry Goldwater.

The poll shows Senator Gary Hart, his chief rival for the nomination, trailing President Reagan by only 12 per cent.

The poll shows that the oldest president in United States history has his greatest strength among young voters.

He has a 70-point lead over Mr Mondale among over-50s, a 22-point lead among those between 30 and 49 and a 33-point lead among the under-30s.

Moscow lifts hopes of Thatcher summit

From Our Own Correspondent, Moscow

A summit meeting between President Chernenko and Mrs Margaret Thatcher is on the East-West agenda, according to western diplomats and Soviet officials here. But both sides emphasize that a meeting depends on the state of East-West relations over the next few months.

A visit to Moscow by Mrs Thatcher is expected to feature in the talks of Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary with Soviet leaders today and tomorrow. Time has been set aside for a meeting between Sir Geoffrey and President Chernenko tomorrow, but the meeting has yet to be confirmed. The sources said much would depend on the progress of Sir Geoffrey's talks with Mr Andrei Gromyko, the Soviet Foreign Minister, who controls much of present Soviet foreign policy and is believed to be the guiding hand behind the Kremlin's cold hostility towards the United States.

The sources revealed that during President Chernenko's talks in the Kremlin with Herr Hans Dietrich Genscher, the West German Foreign Minister, in May, and with President Mitterrand of France last month, Mr Gromyko has intervened to prevent President Chernenko from committing himself to return visits to Bonn and Paris. The visits were agreed in principle but Mr Gromyko pointed out that Mr Chernenko's busy schedule did not allow him to fix a date.

Diplomats said that with East-West relations "back on ice" after briefly-raised hopes of Soviet-American talks on space weapons in Vienna in September, Britain was again in the limelight as a possible mediator.

Sir Geoffrey, who arrived here last night, said in an airport statement that he was making a start at improving relations and he hoped there would be further high-level contacts.

Extradition pressure over wanted men

By Henry Stanhope, Diplomatic Correspondent

The pressures on the Government to sign an extradition treaty with Spain and Britain.

Such a treaty was signed in 1878 but it was ended in 1978, when the Madrid Government withdrew, dissatisfied over the allegedly one-sided way in which it had operated.

The Spanish, particularly under General Franco's authoritarian rule, had found little difficulty in exporting wanted criminals to Britain expeditiously and without complications.

But the Home Office requirement to establish prima facie evidence against a wanted man before he was delivered into the hands of foreign police took much longer and sometimes

Murray is detained in hospital

By Barrie Clement

Mr Len Murray, general secretary of the TUC, was detained in Poole General Hospital Dorset, overnight after collapsing yesterday's 150th anniversary celebrations of the Tolpuddle Martyrs.

A statement last night said that he had fully recovered by the time that he was examined at the hospital.

● The election of Mr Norman Willis, Mr Murray's deputy, to succeed him as general secretary appears increasingly likely after the decision of the executive of the National Union of Public Employees to swing its 680,000 block vote behind Mr Willis. Kinnoch pledge and photograph, page 2

Wimbledon warns press over 'player harassment'

By Rupert Morris

Press "harassment" of leading tennis players prompted the Wimbledon authorities to issue an unprecedented statement yesterday, expressing "serious concern" and giving a warning that they would re-examine the system of allocating press credentials in future.

Both men and women players have been complaining more vociferously than ever before about intrusions into their private lives, with reporters knocking at their doors at all hours.

The growing tension between a few star players and a section of the popular press erupted last week with front page stories about the Wimbledon ladies' champion, Martina Navratilova, and her relationship with Mrs Judy Nelson, a



Martina Navratilova, left, and Chris Evert-Lloyd



Martina Navratilova, left, and Chris Evert-Lloyd

married woman with two children who has been spending time away from her American home to follow Miss Navratilova's tennis matches.

Miss Navratilova was so furious at the intrusion, and at persistent questioning at post-match press conferences, that she announced she would restrict her future appearances in Britain other than Wimbledon.

Yesterday's statement from the All-England Lawn Tennis Club said: "Following discussions with representatives of the Women's Tennis Association and the Association of Tennis Professionals, we wish it to be known that we are seriously concerned about the nature of some of the reporting surrounding this year's championships."

"It is evident not only in persistent and intrusive questioning about players' personal lives but also in harassment outside players' homes and at hotels where they are staying."

"We wish to emphasize that press interviews are intended to be about tennis, and if questions are asked which a player does not wish to answer, which are of a personal nature, provocative or repetitive, we will fully understand if a player does not wish to complete the interview."



The Prince and Princess of Wales watching a polo match at Cirencester yesterday where a runaway horse knocked down a woman. (Photograph: Jillian Herbert)

Runaway horses at royal events

A runaway horse charged through a polo crowd yesterday just yards from the Prince and Princess of Wales, who is expecting her second child in September.

The horse charged into a group of people and knocked down a woman, fracturing her skull.

The royal couple were sitting in a stand watching the polo match on Lord Bathurst's estate in Cirencester, Gloucestershire.

The police said that the horse was owned by Lord Cowdray's son. It is understood that he was riding the horse when it threw him.

A similar incident occurred yesterday when four horses ran through a crowd at the Sandringham horse trials.

Three people were injured when the horses pulling an overturned carriage charged through the crowd. They were finally stopped by Mr Andrew Connell, aged 29.

The Duke of Edinburgh, who saw the accident as he completed the 17-mile marathon, was later shown a film of the crash on video. He later congratulated Mr Connell and told him: "You did very well."

Meanwhile, in Sealand, Deeside, a royal shooting team beat sport and showbusiness personalities in yesterday's Jackie Stewart celebrity challenge day pigeon shoot.

The team of Prince Andrew, Captain Mark Phillips, Duke of Kent, and King Constantine clinched victory in the pheasant flush at the end of the afternoon's shooting. Also taking part in the challenge were Mr Angus Ogilvy, Lord Lichfield, and Prince Albert of Monaco.

Their opponents included Jack Charlton, Bob Champion, Steve Coppell, Anthony Andrews, Gerald Harper and Suzie Quattrone.

Tories seek to avoid GLC polls

By Philip Webster, Political Reporter

Ministers are determined that next year's elections to the Greater London Council and the six metropolitan councils will not go ahead despite last Thursday's legislation paving the way to their abolition.

They believe that if Mr Kenneth Livingstone, the GLC leader, and other Labour councillors resign their seats later this year and force by-elections to test public opinion on the abolition plans, the Conservative Party should not fight them.

Ministers will meet this week to consider the response to the setback in the Lords. Beforehand Viscount Whitelaw, leader of the Lords, and Lord Denham, the Government chief whip, will be taking soundings among Conservative peers to gauge what concessions will be necessary for them to back the Bill in sufficient numbers to get it through.

They are hopeful that an extension of the councils' terms for a few months beyond next May until the main abolition Bill has received the Royal Assent will still be enough, although it is accepted that an extension of their lives for a full year in the end be the price that has to be paid.

Ministers believe that it was tactically wrong not to have offered the former concession, which they had always been ready to fall back on, before Thursday's vote.

If Mr Livingstone carries out his threat to force by-elections, they believe that the Conservative Party should stay well out of it. The contest could only take place in Labour-held seats: there would be no reduction of the Conservative representation on the councils.

Ministers step up attacks on pit violence

By Philip Webster and David Felton

The Government and National Coal Board, disappointed by the response to Mr Ian MacGregor's appeal to the striking miners to return to work, yesterday intensified their condemnation of the violent intimidation of working miners which they believe prevents many others going back.

As Mr MacGregor, the coal board chairman, accused the National Union of Mineworkers' leadership of orchestrating the intimidation, Mr Leon Brittan, the Home Secretary, spoke of the insidious violence directed at miners and their families and called on Mr Arthur Scargill to disown the thuggery.

On Saturday, Mr Peter Walker, Secretary of State for Energy, pinned on Mr Scargill the sole blame for the failure to resolve the dispute and said that the striking miners and workers in other industries were the real victims of "Scargill's strike".

The strong language of the two ministers most closely involved in the dispute and the clear attempt to isolate Mr Scargill appeared to mark the start of a new offensive by the Government in the 16-week-old dispute aimed at speeding up a return to work.

Ministers and the board had hoped that more miners would respond to Mr MacGregor's letter sent to 180,000 miners appealing for a return from last Monday. The coal board's figures showed that only 700 responded.

With most pits closing for the summer holidays in two weeks, ministers and the board fear that the momentum will be lost unless there is a noticeable increase in the numbers going back this week and next.

To counter the alleged threats of violence to miners who want to work, the board in some areas bought unmarked buses, fitted with wire mesh screens, to take workers through the picket lines.

Mr Brittan, speaking in his constituency in Richmond, North Yorkshire, said that in villages close to working collieries, the houses and cars of miners had been stoned and windows smashed. Miners had received threatening telephone calls and been assaulted on their way to work.

He confirmed that teams of CID officers were investigating such incidents and that more uniformed police had been deployed in villages where there was known to be much intimidation.

Mr MacGregor, interviewed on *The World This Weekend* on Radio 4, said the NUM leadership was orchestrating intimidation of miners who were either going to work or feared to do so because they were worried about the safety of their wives and children.

Mr MacGregor said that he had noticed increased intimidation in areas where there were signs of a growing return to work. Nothing happened in the dispute without the central union organization knowing about it.

Mr Scargill, NUM president, appearing on the same programme, said: "Mr MacGregor is talking absolute nonsense and he has no evidence to back that statement up... I will not accept that my members have been in any way involved in intimidation. My facts show to me very clearly that the people guilty of intimidation and violence in this dispute have been the police."

In his speech Mr Brittan gave examples of what he called "this peculiarly repulsive form of thuggery". One man had been convicted of blocking the waste pipes leading from a working miner's house, which flooded his house. Two men arrested after a "marauding rampage" through a Derbyshire village were carrying pieces of wood wrapped in barbed wire. One working miner attacked outside a public house was so badly beaten that a leg was broken.

The Home Secretary said: "Thuggery of this kind has nothing to do with legitimate industrial action. It is crime." He said that no responsible trade unionist would defend these intimidatory tactics.

"One would hope they were not done in the name of the NUM, perhaps Mr Scargill will put that beyond doubt by denouncing them. So far he has signally failed to do so."

Blockade demands, page 2

BA saves on pensions

British Airways said yesterday it was delighted that at least half of its staff had decided to opt out of its index-linked pension scheme.

A cheaper scheme offered by the management as part of a strategy to make the airline more attractive to investors when it comes up for sale had been taken up by 17,000 employees from all grades. Hundreds more acceptances are expected to arrive in British Airways' mail this morning.

The staff are choosing to make smaller contributions to a limited pension fund rather than continue with an index-linked scheme which keeps pace with the cost of living. The new scheme will save the airline tens of millions of pounds in employers' contributions to the pensions fund, which cost it a reported £58 million last year.

Employees are not obliged to make the change and can continue contributing to the former scheme; but those who do opt out will pay on average about 2 per cent less of their salaries towards their pensions. Recruits to the airline will be obliged to join the new scheme.

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Miners demand that unions tighten blockade of steel plants

By David Felton, Labour Correspondent

The National Coal Board's local managers will intensify their efforts to stimulate a widespread return to work this week. But as the pit strike enters its seventeenth week the implications are that the miners will seek to tighten the blockade of steel plants and power stations.

Meetings today between mining, steel and transport unions will establish the direction of the blockade in an increasingly bitter atmosphere. The tension has also been raised in areas regarded by the board as "vulnerable" to a return to work.

Local managements, ranging from pit managers to area directors, are seeking to encourage miners that they have nothing to fear if they defy the National Union of Mineworkers and return to work. A key element is the guarantee of safe conduct to and from the pits in vehicles either bought for or adapted to the task by the board.

Midlands pits are the focus of the board's attention and managers have been working to identify miners liable to be receptive to appeals to go back to work and planning how to breach the union's picketing.

But while the board attempts to undermine the strike, the union leadership looks certain to call at a meeting with rail and other transport unions for a complete blockade of all supplies to the main five integrated steel works.

Officials from 14 unions represented on the TUC's steel committee will hear today the main steelworkers' union argument for refusing the NUM's demand that steel production should be halted. They are certain to support Mr William

Sirs, general secretary of the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation, in that refusal.

Mr Sirs and his senior officials will then meet Mr Arthur Scargill, the NUM president, who is expected to reject their call to be allowed to produce 70 to 80 per cent of normal output.

Mr Scargill will then meet the rail unions, together with the Transport and General Workers Union and the National Union of Seamen in addition to blocking iron and ore deliveries, union leaders may also call for a blockade of power stations.

There have been reports that large amounts of coal are being delivered to power stations by convoys of lorries after the largely successful rail blockade. The NUM could picket power stations and coal depots to frustrate Central Electricity Generating Board attempts to maintain stocks.

Faced with the rail blockade of steel plants, the British Steel Corporation will start large lorry convoys today into the Ravenscroft works in Lancashire along the lines of those servicing the Lanarkshire works in Gwent.

In spite of optimism displayed by Mr Ian MacGregor, the coal board chairman yesterday when he said that there was lots of room for manoeuvre between the board and NUM, there appears to be little chance of a resumption of negotiations.

Mr Peter Heathfield, the union's general secretary, was yesterday lukewarm on reports that he was prepared to negotiate on pit closures.

NUM cancellation costs Dyfed hotels thousands

Claims totalling thousands of pounds are to be made against the National Union of Mineworkers to compensate for what hoteliers are calling the great mining disaster (Tim Jones writes from Cardiff).

The annual conference of the union should have begun today in Tenby Dyfed, and hoteliers and traders have for months been turning away other bookings. More than 250 delegates, together with their wives and families and scores of journalists and television camera crews had promised to make it the best week of the short summer season.

With perfect weather, fine sandy beaches and excellent facilities, tourist chiefs were confident that many of the conference-goers would establish a long-term relationship. But because of the mining dispute the conference, booked more than 12 months ago, has been cancelled.

Tons of food ordered specially for the week will remain unsold and bars which hoped to benefit from late-night play and politics will close early. No one knows just how much money has been lost but some sources put the figure as high as £2m.

Tolpuddle hears pit pledge by Kinnock

By Barrie Clement, Labour Reporter

Mr Neil Kinnock, the Labour Party leader, identified himself unequivocally with the miners' strike for the first time yesterday since the stoppage began 17 weeks ago.

At the end of a speech commemorating the 150th anniversary of the Tolpuddle martyrs he led the 10,000 strong crowd to sing the strikers' anthem: "Here we go".

Mr Kinnock said that Mrs Thatcher had been given a sixteen week instruction in democracy by the pitmen that had so far cost £1,000m.

He seemed to feel that the pitmen's battle hymn might now apply to the Labour Party after a week of banana skins for Mrs Thatcher, including the defeat in the Lords over abolition of the GLC and the flop in the flotation of Enterprise Oil.

He told the crowd: "She cannot destroy democracy, the Lords will not let her. She cannot close the pits, the miners will not let her."

"After the Enterprise Oil fiasco she cannot flog off Jaguar, British Airways and British Telecom in the way that she wants because she cannot get away with public piracy."

He said that the Government was a victim of its own arrogance and that even Tories were turning against the Government.

Mr Kinnock said that this was the "angry summer" with 3.5 million people unemployed and 1.5 million of those aged under 25. He added that there was also the longest miners' strike since 1926. "Will the Tories ever learn?" he said.

Mr Kinnock was joined by Mr Len Murray, general secretary of the TUC, and other leading union officials in a wreath-laying ceremony at the Tolpuddle churchyard where one of the six martyrs sentenced to seven years' deportation to Australia for trying to press for better working conditions.

A special sycamore tree was planted next to the one under which the six martyrs held their meetings and which is now dying.

Mr Sid Weighell, former general secretary of the National Union of Railwaymen, said yesterday that steel workers were right to protect their industry (The Press Association reports).

Mr Weighell said that when he was one of the leaders of the "triple alliance" of coal, steel and rail unions, there was a specific arrangement that one union would not ask another for support if it meant damage to the industry.



Mr Murray and his wife attending the Tolpuddle rally yesterday.

Steel factor in MacGregor pay

By Edward Townsend, Industrial Correspondent

Steel workers' refusal to support the miners' strike may prove to be one of the deciding factors in the payment of up to £1.15m by the Government to Lazard Freres of New York for the services of Mr Ian MacGregor, chairman of the National Coal Board.

The steel workers' insistence that their plants will remain in operation despite Mr Arthur Scargill's attempts to close them, are likely to be interpreted by the high-level committee appointed to judge Mr MacGregor's performance as evidence that as chairman of the British Steel Corporation he was able to boost morale after the steel strike in 1980 and inject a new sense of loyalty into the diminishing work force.

Next month, the corporation, under its new chairman Mr Robert Haslam, will report trading losses for the year to the end of March of about £170m, a reduction of more than £200m on the previous year, when the loss was £236m. That again, will be regarded as a significant achievement on the part of Mr MacGregor.

After the publication of the accounts, the review committee will have to decide on the extent of the first payment to the New York investment bank, of which Mr MacGregor is a partner, in the range from nil to £700,000.

Ironically, the dispute between the National Union of Mineworkers and the National Coal Board, now led by Mr MacGregor, threatens to undo much of the work of recent years which has transformed the steel industry into one of the most productive and enterprising in Europe.

It is in this climate that the performance review committee, chaired by Mr John Gardiner, chief executive of the Lazard Group, will be making its decision, but it is unlikely that Lazard Freres will not be paid the first instalment in full.

Under the terms of the unusual "transfer fee" contract, drawn up in 1980, the Government agreed to pay Lazard £675,000 for the three years of Mr MacGregor's BSC appointment, followed by two payments of up to £700,000 this

year and £450,000 in 1985, both related to performance.

The criteria include the corporation's financial performance, the strength of management, stability of industrial relations, export success and productivity. After criticism of these terms, the Government decided to opt for a less complicated package when appointing Mr MacGregor to the coal board.

That involved a straight fee of £1.5m paid to Lazard which Mr Nigel Lawson, then Secretary of State for Energy, said in March, 1983, was "what the coal board loses every day".

Mr MacGregor's salary at the coal board was set at £59,325, the same as his predecessor Mr Norman Siddall, but more than the £48,500 a year he was paid at the BSC.

When he took over at the steel corporation, losses were running at the rate of about £7m a week and although they rose to about £18m a week in 1982, the continuation by Mr MacGregor of the job reduction programme in particular has improved performance.

BBC unveils Olympics plans amid ITV doubts

By David Hewson, Arts Correspondent

The BBC revealed its plans for coverage of the Los Angeles Olympic Games yesterday, still unaware of whether it will have a commercial rival on independent television at breakfast time.

TV-am withdrew from covering the Games last week because of a technicians' union demand for overtime pay that the company says would have cost £100,000. Some independent television companies are keen to approach the Independent Broadcast Authority for permission to operate a temporary breakfast sports service on Channel 4 for the duration of the Games.

But the companies are sceptical about the chances of putting together such a scheme in time for the opening ceremony on July 28, even though they fear that a breakfast Olympics monopoly would give the BBC a high advantage in the hard-fought battle for overall viewing ratings.

The companies have spent £5m on Olympics coverage, and the plans announced by the BBC yesterday would cost the corporation several million pounds, according to a BBC spokesman. The eight-hour time difference with Los Angeles means that both channels will broadcast live events in the early hours in Britain.

The BBC and the commercial companies believe that an Olympic results round-up at breakfast time will be one of the most popular programmes during the Games.

The BBC's coverage will begin each day with *Olympic Breakfast Time*, devoted to the Games, news and weather. *Olympic Grandstand* will follow with a further report of the previous evening's competition. The BBC will broadcast postal ballots compulsory in elections for union executives, they were requiring the Government to follow a more right-wing policy than it had intended.

When the Greater London Council leaders first began to consider the possibility of derailing the Government's legislation in the Lords they assumed that all crossbenchers were close Conservatives. Last Thursday's vote has proved that that is by no means the case.

Although it would still be very surprising if a Bill from any government were to be defeated by the Lords on second reading, it is liable to be emasculated in committee unless ministers can win the balance of the argument.

Commentary

Geoffrey Smith

One of the principal consequences of last Thursday's remarkable vote on the local government "paving" Bill has been to shatter the conventional wisdom on the House of Lords. It had always been assumed that when it came to the point the Lords would never do really serious damage to a Conservative government.

Occasional defeats of a mildly embarrassing nature would be inflicted, but no more than that. Whenever grave danger threatened there was a silent army of backwoodsmen who could be mobilized to come to the aid of a Conservative administration.

Although there had been a number of rebellions in the Lords during this Parliament before last week, they could all be interpreted to fit the conventional wisdom. Either they were not on issues of critical political importance, or, as in the case of the amendment to the Trade Union Bill the week before, making postal ballots compulsory in elections for union executives, they were requiring the Government to follow a more right-wing policy than it had intended.

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Cross benchers hold balance

Kasparov in satellite chess link

By Harry Golombek, Chess Correspondent

A possible unique chess event took place in the heart of London's dockland yesterday when satellite communications were used to hold a simultaneous chess display in which the players were situated in two continents.

Advantage was taken of the presence in London of Gary Kasparov, the future world championship challenger, who had been playing on the second board in the match between the Soviet Union and the Rest of the World, to play simultaneously against a mixed team of 10 top British and American juniors, respectively in London and New York.

The five British juniors were: Neil Carr, aged 16, who beat world champion Anatoly Karpov in a simultaneous match given by Karpov last month; Stuart Conquest, aged 17, from Hastings, a former world under 16 champion; Cathy Forbes, aged 16, from London, the British girls' under 16 champion; Gary Lane, aged 19, from Paignton, Devon, the youngest ever West of England champion; and Michael Adams from Cornwall, aged 12, the Cornish senior champion.

The United States team comprised Patrick Wolff, Dennis Younglove, Douglas Eckert, Paul Truong and Ilya Gurevich — the five juniors who are showing most promise in the US junior championships.

Protesters aim to stop consecration

The dispute over the consecration of the next Bishop of Durham took a new turn yesterday as the Archbishop of York was presented with a petition to stop the ceremony. A delegation of clergy handed the petition, signed by more than 12,500 members of the Church of England, to Dr John Habgood on the steps of Bishopthorpe Palace in York. The protesters claimed to represent a large body of church opinion against the consecration of Professor David Jenkins, Professor of Theology at Leeds University.

The dispute began after Dr Jenkins, aged 60, appeared on the London Weekend TV programme *Credo* and commented on his interpretation of the Christian miracles. Dr Habgood refused to comment on the petition until after he had read it.

Scots example for reform

But would any reform be acceptable? A wholly elected second chamber would be a rival to the Commons. A mixture of election and nomination would be too complicated. A purely nominated House would meet the criterion of simplicity, but there would not be many younger members. Few people beneath the age of 40 have done enough to be selected as a life peer.

The old system whereby all Scottish peers used, until the Peerage Act of 1963, to elect a proportion of their number to the House of Lords each Parliament might be adopted for the country as a whole. The Conservative Party committee under Lord Home of the Hirsel feared that only Conservative peers would be elected. I doubt if that would happen. But it is the only kind of reform worth serious consideration. Last week's vote shows that the House of Lords does not work too badly as it is.

New European airline mooted

By Michael Bailey, Transport Editor

A number of Europe's leading airlines are discussing the possibility of starting a jointly owned "Common Market airline" that would fly freely across frontiers without bureaucratic interference.

Based on the proposed new Stolport (Short take-off and landing airport) in London's Docklands, it would operate services initially to Paris, Frankfurt, Brussels, Amsterdam, and Rotterdam, with possible services in the future to Rome, Madrid, and Copenhagen.

The airlines involved are British Airways, Air France, Lufthansa, Sabena, and KLM, together with Britain's Brynmor Airways which expects to operate the Docklands Stolport after its completion in the autumn of next year.

Services would be operated by a fleet of the ultra-quiet 50-seat de Havilland Dash 7s. Each aircraft would wear a common livery but be owned by each country's airline.

Apart from the London Stolport, the services would operate initially from existing international airports, but eventually from new central stolports in cities such as Paris and Frankfurt.

A new range of cheap fares to Spain and other European destinations in place of the illegal "seat only" flights is being sought by Jetavia, the pioneers of advance booking charter (ABC) across the Atlantic.

'Burn Catholics' councillor may bow out

Mr George Seawright, a Democratic Unionist member of the Northern Ireland Assembly who was suspended from his party because he called for Catholics and their priests to be incinerated, is expected to withdraw from politics rather than retract.

Mr Seawright, aged 34, who represents North Belfast on both the city council and at Stormont, made the comment last month at a meeting of the Belfast Education and Library Board.

The party's assembly group had withdrawn the Whip from Mr Seawright but his suspension from party membership came on Saturday.

Kitson reaffirms support for fight against apartheid

Mr David Kitson, who was recently released from prison in South Africa after serving a 20 year sentence for sabotage, said yesterday that he had no regrets about what he did and is still fully committed to the policy of armed struggle to overthrow the South African Government (Richard Dowden writes).

He said: "I never felt we made a mistake. I just felt that the tempo could have been a bit faster than it has been."

Mr Kitson who will be 65 in August, was convicted of being a member of Umkhonto We Sizwe, the military wing of the African National Congress, and with committing 58 acts of sabotage. He said: "Not that I committed them personally, but I was part of an organization responsible for them and I accept that responsibility."

Mr Kitson now lives with his

Community housing faces test

A planning hearing which opens at Farnborough, Hampshire, tomorrow could prove to be an important test case of the Government's intentions towards large-scale housing developments in south-east England, in the next decade.

The hearing is an examination in public of proposed alterations to the north-east Hampshire structure plan, which has been ordered by Mr Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for the Environment.

Central to the hearing will be a plan by Consortium Developments, a group of 10 of the largest housebuilders in the country, to build a village community near Hook in the middle of the north east Hampshire area. It is a site in the Home Counties identified by the company for possible development of its village concept, which would have about 5,000 houses.

The hearing will consider the need and demand for housing in the area, the availability of land, the provision of infrastructure and other services, the three-year roll-forward proposed in the alteration by Hampshire County Council.

Mr Andrew Bennett, executive director of Consortium Development, believes the three-year roll-forward is designed to delay any decision in the hope that growth in the area may be blocked.

Family hardship blamed on social security flaws

By Nicholas Timmins, Social Services Correspondent

Families with children living on supplementary benefit suffer hardship because of failures in the social security system, according to research commissioned by the Department of Health and Social Security.

A two-year study by the Policy Studies Institute suggests that in 1982 such families started each week with an income £13 a week below the level needed according to the Government's own figures.

More than half were in debt or behind with bills, half ran out of money most weeks, and more than half lacked basic items of clothing such as a warm coat or change of shoes, both for themselves and for their children.

The study, whose findings are being fed into the Government's review of supplementary benefit, says the reason lies in

part in the bewildering most claimants feel in the face of the system.

More than half did not know that extra payments to which they were legally entitled even existed, and a third had no idea how their normal weekly benefit was worked out.

Staff are confused, too. They are caught in "a tight squeeze" between their master's economy drive and their clients' needs, the report says. Benefit officers' knowledge of the regulations was often vague.

In the winter of 1982, according to the report, at least one million people entitled to extra help with heating bills did not get it, mainly because they did not know they could claim.

The *Review of Supplementary Benefit* (Policy Studies Institute, 1-2 Casle Lane, London SW1E 6DR, £12.00).

Bridge marathon record

The final round of the 1984 Gold Cup, Britain's premier bridge event, took place at the Skean Dhu Hotel in Glasgow over the weekend. The number one seeds, captained by G T Kirby, lost to D Muller's team by 150 to 127 in the quarter-final in the longest match on record starting at 2pm on Friday and finishing at 5am on Saturday. After that marathon the Muller team lost to M H Airey by 143 to 117 who now

play Mrs S Landy's team in the final which has been reached from an original entry of 546.

Results: Quarter-finals: D Muller, G Kirby, A Jones, M Rogers, M Gwynne, and P J Frawley beat G T Kirby, J M Armstrong, A J Patterson, and C Gifford 150-127. D Muller's team beat D Muller, G Kirby, A Jones, M Rogers, M Gwynne, and P J Frawley 143-117. Mrs S Landy beat D Muller, G Kirby, A Jones, M Rogers, M Gwynne, and P J Frawley 143-117.

More serious American furniture made more serious prices — £98,214 (\$137,500) for a carved walnut chest-on-chest made in Philadelphia in about 1765 in what is called the Chippendale



Mr David Kitson: No regrets about armed struggle

FETCHED £79,000 AT PHILLIPS

This very fine Chippendale period marquetry commode is one of a pair which are attributed to the famous French cabinet-maker Pierre Langlois. The pair were sold at Phillips on June 19 for £79,000.

Phillips hold regular sales of Furniture every Tuesday at 11 am. The next Sale of Fine English & Continental Furniture will be on 6 October.

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Dioxin discovery fuels residents' fears about chemical waste factory

By Patricia Cough

A form of dioxin has been found in soil samples near a chemical waste factory at Bonnybridge, central Scotland. Local residents fear an ecological disaster.

They are alarmed about babies born with eye defects, cattle dying or bearing deformed calves and the level of cancer in the area.

Dioxin has been rated as dangerous as radioactivity since an explosion at a factory in Seveso, northern Italy, led to the deaths of thousands of birds, animals and plants, caused disfiguring chloracne skin disease in children and left a long-term threat of cancer and genetic mutations.

It is also the cause of lawsuits from some 20,000 U.S. Vietnam war veterans who have alleged that diseases were caused by its inclusion in Agent Orange, a defoliant sprayed on jungles.

The inhabitants of a town in Missouri are being rehoused because dioxin was found in the soil.

Dr Brock Chittam, a Canadian scientist who analysed the samples, told *The Times* he had found traces of chlorinated dioxin, a less toxic variety than the TCDD dioxin involved at Seveso and in Agent Orange.

Although it was impossible to gauge from the two soil samples the danger to humans, he urged further analyses as soon as possible.

The factory, which is owned by Re-Chem International, deals with waste chemical products that include polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs). These were banned in the United States last year after a link was found between PCBs and some cancers and fetal malformations.

PCBs, and other substances, including chlorinated benzenes, are used as insulators in transformers. By law they must be destroyed by burning but in some circumstances this can produce dioxins and other toxic by-products.

A petition demanding that the factory be closed until assurances that it is safe has been signed by 16,000 people locally 99 per cent of those approached, organizers say.

Mr John Wheeler, a school teacher who heads the protest group, said: "People here feel they are sitting under something and they do not know what it is."

An independent inquiry into the amount of leukemia and related disorders in Bonnybridge and neighbouring Denny was ordered last week by Mr George Younger, Secretary of State for Scotland. The Scottish Office said, however, that there was no question of closing the factory as no link had been established with diseases.

Re-Chem International said that the company was bemused by the protests and publicity. Burning of PCBs was also monitored by the Falkirk district authorities, by HM

Industrial Pollution Inspectorate and the North River Purification Board.

The only escape registered from the factory was a minimal quantity of PCBs in effluent. It was well within the officially accepted limit.

The samples examined by Dr Chittam, of Wellington Environmental Consultants Incorporated, Guelph, Ontario, were taken from land farmed by Mr Andrew Graham which is two miles from the plant.

Mr Graham says that 116 of his cows have changed colour, wasted away and died and 76 were born dead or malformed, without eyes, in the past 12 months. He has sent other samples of laboratories in Europe for testing.

Mr Wheeler said that two babies in the area had been born with one eye, and third with an eye defect which needed surgery to correct. The defects were similar to those found in Mr Graham's calves, but doctors were hesitant to link them with pollution.

The cancer rate in the three postal districts around the plant increased by 36 per cent between 1977 and 1981, whereas the average increase for Scotland was 11 per cent, he said. The Scottish Office said, however, that there had been one case in the area, case in the area in 1979, five in 1980 and four in 1981 and that the numbers were statistically insignificant.

Asbestos hazards of storage heaters

By David Walker

More than a million families are living with potentially fatal asbestos linings in their electrical heating systems.

Electric storage and ducted air heating systems present what experts regard as the most serious danger from asbestos: air blown by fans over the lethal material. A single asbestos fibre can kill when it is inhaled and lodges in the human lungs.

The heating systems were widely installed by private developers and local authorities during the 1960s and early 1970s. However, the existence of the hazard has been an open secret in town halls and in the electricity industry for some time but has now been made public by the decision of councils in Bristol and Woodspring at Weston super Mare to rip out heating systems in their housing estates and replace them.

In January the Electricity Council, which regulates supply and distribution, effectively acknowledged the hazard by preparing a detailed list of heating appliances installed before 1975 that were insulated with asbestos.

Last week local authorities met the Government for the first meeting of a working party chaired by Sir George Young, Under Secretary of State at the Department for the Environment, that is supposed to draw up a list of priorities for removing asbestos from schools, public buildings and council estates.

But the Electricity Consumers' Council, the statutory consumers' watchdog, only learned of the problem with the publication of an article in *The Sunday Times* yesterday. Its secretary, Mr Richard Coldwell, said he would be pressing the Electricity Council to give full details of the hazard. He will also ask if the electricity boards continued to promote the appliances after the dangers became known.



Mr Robbie Minty (left) and Mr John McKennie yesterday, preparing for the Royal Show. (Photographs by Peter Trievnor.)

Farmers urged to keep spirits up

By John Young, Agriculture Correspondent

The farming industry should beware of talking itself into a depression, Mr John Heart, chief executive of the Royal Agricultural Society of England, said yesterday.

Speaking on the eve of the opening of the Royal Show at Stoneleigh, Warwickshire, he gave a warning of the dangers of over-reacting to measures to curb over-production.

"We are all concerned for the dairy sector and worried about what may happen to other sectors," he said. "But we can overdo the depression and the gloom."

Mr George Jackson, the society's agricultural director, said that livestock entries for the show were buoyant. The numbers of cattle and sheep were up and pig producers were looking to better times after two years of oversupply and depressed prices.

Mr Geoffrey Tiplady, president of the Agricultural Engineers' Association and managing director of Ford Tractors UK, said the machinery industry was looking at the next few months with a measure of optimism.

Mr Michael Jopling, the Minister of Agriculture, who has been the target of recent demonstrations by farmers, disclosed yesterday that he had cancelled a visit to the Royal Welsh Show later this month. Welsh farmers have been particularly militant in their opposition to EEC milk quotas.

Launching a campaign to eradicate sheep scab, which is in danger of reaching epidemic proportions, Mr Jopling urged farmers to observe this year's two compulsory dipping periods, between July and August 11 and between September 23 and November 3.

The number of confirmed outbreaks had increased alarmingly to 109 by the end of May, he said.

Admission to the show is £6.80 for adults and £3.80 for children today and tomorrow, £5.80 and £3.30 on Wednesday, and £4.80 and £2.80 on Thursday.

Church text set for second marriages

By Clifford Longley, Religious Affairs Correspondent

An official service for blessing a couple after a register office marriage has been produced by the Church of England. It is designed for marriages in which one partner was divorced.

Based on an unofficial service written by the Bishop of Salisbury, Dr John Baker, the service is intended to be authorized for general use, the first time the Church of England has had such a service. The draft is being circulated for comments within the church, prior to any revision.

It is called a "service of prayer and dedication", and comes in three forms, two for use as part of Holy Communion. In all forms the service will be public in character, whereas various unofficial "services of blessing" for remarriage after divorce have generally been more private.

Banns are excluded, bells are not to be rung, the Wedding March is not to be played, and there is no role for a best man or bridesmaids. If the ring is blessed, that will be done with it on the hand. The couple are to enter the church formally at the beginning of the service, side by side.

There is no reference to divorce or any specific prayers of penitence for the failure of a previous marriage.

At the dedication, the minister repeats words similar to the exchange of vows in the wedding service, saying: "N, you have taken M to be your wife, and your marriage is recognized by law. The Church of England understands marriage to be in the will of God, the union of a man and a woman, for better for worse, for richer for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish; each other until parted by death. Is this your understanding of the promises you have made?"

He then asks: "Have you resolved to be faithful to M, forsaking all others, so long as you shall live?" and then repeats the procedure for the wife.

The General Synod will next week debate possible procedures for remarriage divorces in church. The service of dedication would be an alternative.

Protest at choir head's departure

By David Nicholson-Lord

Parents of boy choristers at St Paul's Cathedral have threatened to withdraw their children from the choir school in protest at the apparent dismissal of Mr Barry Rose, the cathedral choirmaster for the past seven years.

Mr Rose, who has been described as the finest cathedral choir trainer in the country, is to leave it at the end of this month. A statement from the cathedral says it has been "mutually agreed" that he should resign.

However, parents of more than 30 choristers and prebendaries are convinced he has been dismissed and have begun a campaign for his reinstatement. Letters have been written to the Prime Minister, the Queen Mother, who is patron of the cathedral, the Prince of Wales and church figures including the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Robert Runcie.

One parent, who declined to be named, said yesterday that information on any renovation or improvement work carried out, as well as advice on use and maintenance. It would also provide a full breakdown of what was included in the purchase price.

Mr Rose, who led the music at the marriage of the Prince and Princess of Wales in 1981, has done much to popularise the St Paul's choir. His record company, Gold Records, has produced records of the choristers singing Frank Sinatra songs and television theme tunes.

A former insurance salesman who failed every music examination he took, he is immensely popular with the boys, many of whom were said to be in tears when they heard he was leaving.

But he has often been at odds with the authorities. Shortly before the Royal Wedding he was forthright in his criticisms of cuts made by the Dean and Chapter in the music budget.

A statement from lawyers acting for the cathedral and Mr Rose said it had become apparent that "the demands and responsibilities involved in the practical and professional execution of Mr Rose's duties cannot be carried out as originally envisaged".

The Dean, the Very Rev Alan Webster, was unavailable for comment yesterday. Mr Rose has declined to comment beyond confirming his departure.

Brains for the first-born, happiness for the rest

By Colin Hughes

The youngest child in a family tends to be happier but less intelligent than the oldest, according to recent research which appears to refute several conventional wisdoms on early learning.

A team of researchers from Keele University has found that family position is a more powerful influence on children's social behaviour than either sex or social class.

Elder children receive more attention from their parents, while fathers in particular ignore their youngest-born. The youngest children prefer to tag along at play with their older siblings, while the latter make up the rules.

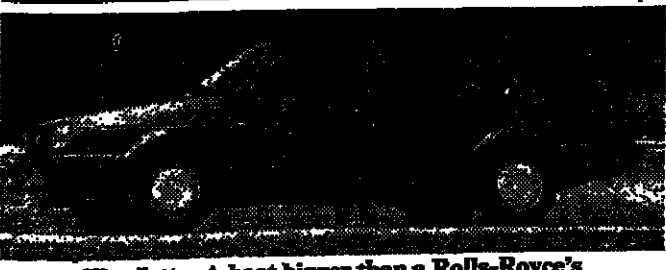
Junior, however, have a more happy-go-lucky attitude, laughing more and weeping less, while older children are more often told off for hitting and shouting at the young ones.

Where there was only one child they enjoyed more adult attention and took less part in childish games such as play wrestling, kicking and making funny faces.

The findings result from research which chose to observe children aged from three to four and a half in their homes, rather than to set up artificial experiments or to interview parents.

The researchers also challenge the assumption that middle class children perform better in intelligence tests because their parents talk to them more in early childhood. The difference, they found, was in quality, not quantity.

The Young Child At Home by C. E. Davies, S. J. Hunt, E. Vincent, and M. Mason, (Nirx Nelson, Oxford Road East, Windsor, £5.95).



The Jetta: A boot bigger than a Rolls-Royce's

Europe's biggest boot

By Clifford Webb, Motoring Correspondent

The new Volkswagen Jetta saloon, which goes on sale in Britain today, is claimed to have the biggest boot of any European car despite being only 14ft long. It will join the already highly competitive fleet car market rivals such as the Austin Montego and Ford Orion.

Based on the hatchback Golf, the Jetta has been carefully styled to give it a sufficiently different appearance to support the company's claim that it is an entirely new car.

The 23 cubic ft boot compares with the 18.4 cubic ft of the Montego, although that car is six inches longer. The Jetta boot is bigger even than the boot of a Rolls-Royce Silver Spirit.

It is intended to meet the needs of the commercial user who wants the extra security of a lockable boot, or those of the larger than average family going on holiday.

Five versions are being imported, with a choice of 1.3, 1.6 and 1.8 litre petrol engines and a 1.6 litre diesel engine. Prices vary from £5,268 to £8,342.

The Jetta has got off to a poor start, however. The recently settled strike in German component plants has left each British dealer with only one or two for launch day.

House log book sought for buyers

By Christopher Warman, Property Correspondent

Prospective house owners should be given a "log book" of the house they intend to buy, including information about its construction and energy efficiency, the Anglia Building Society says.

The Society says the log should give the purchaser full information on any renovation or improvement work carried out, as well as advice on use and maintenance. It would also provide a full breakdown of what was included in the purchase price.

Mr Tony Stoughton-Harris, the society's general manager, said that young first-time buyers were making probably the biggest financial decision of their lives "on the basis of less information than they would get when buying a washing machine or car."

The priority must be to provide an indication of the energy efficiency of a house, he said. The Anglia is the first building society to turn its attention to that area, and its surveys have been working for more than two years with the Home Energy Audit, Advice and Treatment scheme (Heat).

According to the Society, house prices across the country have increased by an average 5.5 per cent during the first six months of 1984, the result of a mild winter, a helpful Budget, lower mortgage rates and plenty of new building activity combining to reinforce consumer confidence.

Housing Market 1984 - The First Six Months, is available from branches of the Anglia Building Society.

Two men killed by power line

Two radio engineers were killed in Cheltenham yesterday after an aerial touched power cables carrying 30,000 volts.

Mr Tony Cooper, aged 39, and Mr Nigel Lane, aged 19, who were preparing for an outside broadcast.

Blow to judge

The police in an Donegal, in the Irish Republic are investigating a fire yesterday that damaged the holiday home near Killybeg of Northern Ireland's Lord Justice Gibson.

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Mediation centre launched to ease local crime and tensions

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

A scheme to bring peace and goodwill to feuding families, quarrelling neighbours and between petty criminals and their victims, which is to be launched in the West Midlands, has won government support.

Disputes which can fester give a neighbourhood a bad name and sometimes lead to violence will instead be referred to a new-style mediation centre. The West Midlands probation service is discussing plans with the police, courts and other agencies. People will be able to go to the centre or be referred to it. For the police it could provide an opportunity, when warranted, for mediation and reparation by offenders to their victims as an alternative to prosecution.

The mediation centre would also take disputes referred by the social services, housing department and solicitors.

In cases where police feel unable to prosecute, grievances may remain and they may linger even after courts have imposed penalties.

Reparation by offenders to victims could include payment of money, replacement of damaged or stolen goods, or work.

The planned mediation centre, in Sandwell, which has been given £20,000 a year for three years in urban aid money, will have a full-time coordinator with part-time counsellors recruited locally.

Mr John Hardin, deputy chief probation officer for the West Midlands, went to study similar schemes in the United States where, he says, satisfaction was expressed by 80 per cent of the parties in the disputes. There is roughly the same success rate in Canada and Australia.

Rule changes mean parole for 2,000

By Our Home Affairs Correspondent

The first of 2,000 prisoners to be given early release this week under new parole rules will leave jail today, raising hopes in the Home Office for an end to the embarrassing use of police cells.

The prisoners to be released benefit from the reduction of the minimum qualifying period for parole from 12 months to six. There were 37 prisoners in police cells at the weekend, 31 of them women. Nearly all are held in London.

The hope held out by Mr Leon Brittan, Home Secretary, of ending the use of police cells by December 31 was short-lived, but space left by the departing prisoners on parole will give him a fresh chance.

Overcrowding is worst in local prisons, which are among jails from which the 2,000 on parole will come. However, hopes for an end to police cell use are qualified by experience that in some prisons the pressure is too great for palliatives to have adequate effect.

But one expected result is that there will be fewer cells occupied by three people, although built by the Victorians

to hold one. Some 4,077 prisoners are presently in these conditions.

Parole for prisoners serving shorter sentences balances a tougher policy towards those being punished for the most serious and violent crimes.

Today's changes will mean a rise from 4,000 to about 6,000 in the number of people on parole. About 25 prisoners a week will in future be granted parole, compared with 100 previously.

Mr William Beaumont, chairman of the National Association of Probation Officers (Napo) told *The Times*: "Members have been expressing concern that there is a significant number of prisoners whose consideration for parole has been delayed beyond their earliest parole date. We feel this to be unjust."

The Prison Department replied that there was a small minority of prisoners whose qualifications for release had not yet met requirements, but they were expected to be cleared in the next week or two. They would otherwise have been released in the first week the new system came into force.

Conservation warning

By John Young, Agriculture Correspondent

The cost of protecting the countryside from agricultural exploitation will far exceed what future Governments are likely to be prepared to pay, according to a report published today by the British Association of Nature Conservationists and the World Wildlife Fund.

The price of management agreements under the Wildlife and Countryside Act, 1982, under which landowners are compensated for not exploiting sites - is rising rapidly and is likely to burst the Nature Conservancy Council's budget at an early stage, the report says.

Dr William Adams, its author, describes the idea that country landowners and farmers should be rewarded for what are usually minor constraints on their activities as an anachronism. "The principle of full compensation for profit foregone in the national interest is one which no other industry or social group in Europe enjoys", he says.

The report estimates that the cost of preventing the drainage and ploughing of some 16,000 acres of the Somerset Levels alone could be £27m over 20 years at 1983 prices.

Eton boys to stay on remote atoll

A party of Eton schoolboys are to spend six weeks on a remote coral atoll in the Seychelles next month as part of a scientific expedition. The 13 boys each raised £2,000 towards the cost of the expedition to Aldabra.

Mrs Alison Donaldson, a biologist, will be one of the five professional scientists on the trip. Her husband, Dr Alan Donaldson, a former Eton master now teaching at Rannoch School, Perthshire, is joint leader of the expedition.

The expedition will carry out research on the growth of stromatolites, layered structures formed mainly by the growth of blue-green algae.

Cabinet Secretary wants more open government

By Peter Hennessy

Sir Robert Armstrong, Secretary of the Cabinet and the Prime Minister's most senior official adviser, called for more open government in a conversation broadcast on Channel 4 yesterday. It was the first time a serving Cabinet Secretary had been interviewed on television.

Speaking on *Questions*, he said: "Governments ought to explain their policies and explain the decisions which they take as fully as possible to Parliament and to the public, and, if possible more fully than they do now."

"I would like to see more open government, and I have

made no secret of that, in a variety of respects."

In his conversation with Mr Marcel Berlins, Sir Robert revealed that he would have stood down as Lord Wilson of Rievaulx's principal private secretary in 10 Downing Street in 1975 if the Labour Government had taken Britain out of Europe.

Asked if he had ever been tempted to become an elected politician, Sir Robert replied: "I don't feel I want to be out there in front. I feel much happier, much more sure that I am in a role that suits me, where I am in a kind of back room."

Electronic shopping: 1 Banks cashing in on the plastic card

Plastic cards are replacing paper as the electronic revolution sweeps through the banking system. Bill Johnstone, Technology Correspondent, reports.

Scotland 284; and Clydesdale 138.

The National Westminster Bank has joined the Midland for form a larger network, while Barclays, Williams & Glyn's, Lloyds and the Royal Bank of Scotland are forming another.

The banks have used computers to process cheques and transfer money for nearly 20 years. The first system the Banks' Automated Clearing Services initiated in 1969, handles the transfer of regular payments between the clearing banks.

The Clearing House Automated Payment System which came on stream in February, was devised to transfer large sums electronically the same day. The system is ideal for business use. The minimum sum transferred is £10,000.

Funds are exchanged electronically internationally using the SWIFT network Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication - which began in 1977. More than 30 countries are attached to the network, including Japan the United States and most of Europe and South America.

At the end of last year there were 11 million electronic plastic cards in Britain, a 30

per cent increase on 1982. There were 14 million in France a rise of about 9 per cent.

The banks' electronic revolution evolved from 1966, when they stopped opening on Saturdays. Some banks then issued small plastic cards, valued at £10, which were swallowed up by the bank vending machine and returned by post. The first dispenser was installed at Enfield by Barclays in 1968.

Cash dispensers have all but been replaced by automated tellers, which began to appear in the mid 1970s.

Automated tellers process money cheaper. The cost of processing cheques rises each year.

Last year about 3,000 million pieces of paper were used in the processing of cheques and credit cards. That would be substantially higher but for the spread of automated tellers. Processing a cheque costs about 50p - if a customer pays bank charges he or she will pay about half that.

To encourage electronic withdrawals there are lower charges. National Westminster charges are 29p per cheque, compared with 12p for a teller.

But electronic tellers are just the beginning. The Scottish and English clearing banks have

decided to create a network to link major retail outlets, through a telecommunications network, to banks.

Customers at department stores or supermarkets would push a card, possibly the same as their electronic teller cards, into a checkout machine to pay for purchases.

A signal would travel from the store to the customer's bank and transfer the money to the retailer's bank in about 7 seconds. It is intended to attach credit cards companies, to the network, so customers will have a choice of payment.

There is no evidence that the electronic tellers are replacing cashiers, as the tellers need to be refilled, while the growing number of banking services offered would appear to assure outer clerks of employment.

However, when the paper generated by financial transactions is eliminated, banking unions expect the workforce transactions is eliminated, banking unions expect the workforce to be reduced, as much as 25 per cent in 10 years. Retailing societies are also attracted to electronic tellers, since they must offer comparable services to compete for investors. They plan to build a national network.

The first moves have taken place, with the Halifax installing a network of Philips tellers, to be followed soon by the Leicester.

Tomorrow: Computers that control purchases.

Police use of computers criticized

By Stewart Tessler, Crime Correspondent

A number of police forces are using criminal intelligence computers holding sensitive personal information despite a Home Office report casting doubt on the value of some systems in beating crime.

The report was drawn up in 1982 by the Home Office's Scientific Research and Development Branch after testing a trial project being run by Thames Valley police. The computer system is based on material put together by "collators" who assemble information in their areas on individuals and incidents.

The use of the computer has drawn criticism in the past and this week the *New Statesman* has published details of the report. According to the magazine, the report found the use of the computer had no "strong direct effect" on crime reduction nor did it help to catch criminals.

Yesterday, a spokesman for the Home Office confirmed the existence of the report, and said since then the Thames Valley force had made adjustments to the system.

Scotland Yard has been using a criminal intelligence system since the late 1970s but it is not based solely on collators' records nor localized in its sources in the way Thames Valley is.

In the past the Thames Valley experiment has been criticized because the input was sometimes based on nothing more than unverified village gossip.



Ship's bells: Annette Searle, whose father, Lieutenant David Searle (right), survived the sinking of HMS Ardent in the Falklands war, being christened in the ship's bell at Cuddeon naval airbase, Cornwall, yesterday.

Deportation could kill sick woman, MP tells Brittan

By Pat Healy, Race Relations Correspondent

The Home Secretary is being urged to allow a Pakistani couple to stay in Britain to prevent the wife's premature death.

Mr Shahid Ali Syed, aged 29, of Leyton, Essex, faces deportation with his wife, Nasreen, aged 24, and daughter Sidrah, aged 15 months, after his application for naturalization was rejected.

Mrs Syed's heart condition requires constant medication not readily available in Pakistan. The consultant cardiologist at the London Chest Clinic, in charge of the case says that she will also need a second operation within the next 10 years.

Mr Harry Cohen, Labour MP for Leyton, said yesterday that deportation would virtually condemn Mrs Syed to death. "This is exactly the kind of case in which the Home Secretary should exercise his discretion", Mr Cohen said.

Mr Syed is the London correspondent of an immigrant magazine, *Karavane*, published in Norway, to which he contributes articles on immigrants in Britain and the economy of the Third World.

He first came to Britain in 1976 as a student, and was granted a trainee work permit in the finance department of the British Gas Corporation, where he has worked since 1979. He was elected a senior shop steward for the National and Local Government Officers' Association in October, 1982.

Mr Syed's case has been through the immigration appeals procedure. A hearing to the Court of Appeal is pending.

The Home Office said yesterday that Mr Syed had no basis to stay in the United Kingdom, but no action would be taken until the judicial process was exhausted.

OU studies 'Marxist bias' charge

By Coling Hughes

The Open University is to reply this week to government allegations of Marxist bias, which have been made in a report privately ordered by Mr David Hancock, permanent secretary to Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Education and Science.

The report, leaked to *The Sunday Times*, singles out two units in one of the university's five foundation courses as presenting an "essentially Marxist" view of economics.

Written by what the department calls a "group of professional economists", the report says the economics course books see profit "purely in terms of the expropriation of a surplus created by labour", describe monetarist theory as "silly", and based on "class interest", and at one point mention the "overthrow of capitalism" three times in half a page.

Production is presented as "essentially a struggle between capital and labour", capitalists are seen as "having a desire to keep wages as low as possible", and Britain's economy is viewed as basically capitalist.

Mr Hancock, in a letter to the Open University's vice-chancellor, Dr John Horlock, suggests that its courses "ought surely to be balanced, and asks him to review and amend where appropriate."

The department's report was ordered after complaints made directly to Sir Keith. Sir Keith has studied the course texts.

It is the first time Sir Keith has directly intervened in alleged bias on a university course.

Open University staff are particularly concerned because it is the only university directly funded by the department, and is facing £13.5m cuts in real funding over three years. A department spokesman said: "This report really has no bearing on the finance of the university. We are not in a position where the university is being told that, if they do not revise this course, we will cut more money."

The Open University yesterday said the letter of complaint from Mr Hancock and the report were being dealt with like any other objection. The matter had been referred to the academic pro-vice-chancellor and dean of the faculty of social sciences. "Their investigations would not be made public until Dr Horlock had replied to the department."

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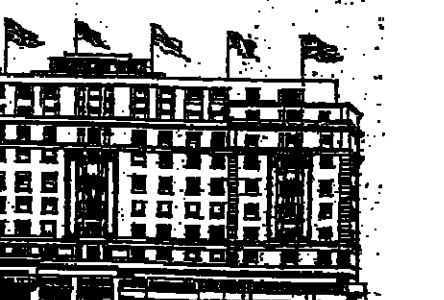
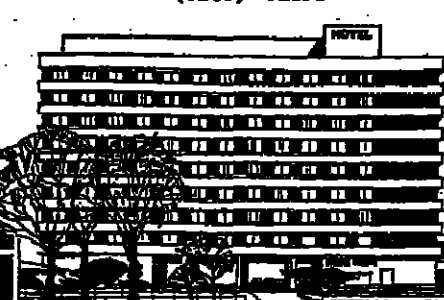
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Nine from hijacked ferry held by Israel

From Christopher Walker Jerusalem

The Israeli Government is unrepentant about last Friday's hijacking to Haifa of the Beirut-bound passenger ferry, the Alisur Blanco. Officials confirmed last night that nine of the 87 people originally on board were still in custody in the context of Israel's "ongoing war against the Palestine Liberation Organization".

Little information was available about the identity of the detainees or their whereabouts. But it was believed that eight were Lebanese and one Syrian. An official would not comment on reports that two were women, but dismissed as "nonsense" widespread rumours that one of those caught had been the international terrorist known as Carlos.

The International Red Cross, which last week masterminded the first exchange of Israeli and Syrian prisoners of war for 10 years, was involved in behind the scenes negotiations designed to secure the quick release of the detained passengers.

The hijacking operation, carried out by one of the Israeli gunboats which regularly patrol the Lebanese coast, had been condemned as an act of "piracy" by both the Lebanese Government and left-wing politicians in Israel. It was discussed at yesterday's weekly meeting of the Cabinet but the proceedings were ruled to be classified as "top secret".

There was speculation that the forcible rerouting of the Lebanese-owned, Panamanian-registered ferry en route from Cyprus to west Beirut was based on an intelligence top-off about one of the 63 original passengers which later turned out to be false. The Israeli Foreign Ministry described the move as "a defensive action".

The Ministry noted that in the past, the PLO had attacked Israel from the sea - but did not indicate how the large, white painted Alisur Blanco would fit into such a pattern of attacks which are usually carried out by rubber dinghies.

The Ministry added: "Israel will continue to give its residents appropriate protection. Israel had to intercept the ship and arrest several of the passengers as part of its unending war against PLO terrorism." It claimed: "The war on terror is the duty of every civilized country".

With the general elections due here in three weeks, Mr Uri Averbach, Jewish chairman of the Israel-Arab Progressive List of Peace, one of the contesting parties, said that under its present Government Israel had turned into "a pirate nation".

In an interview with the Tel Aviv paper, *Hadashot* yesterday, Dr Ruth Lapido, one of Israel's leading experts on international law described the interception as probably an illegal act under Article 15 of the Open Seas Charter of 1958 to which Israel is a signatory.

Israeli military officials have disputed Palestinian claims that Sergeant Samir Assad, an Israeli Druze prisoner of war was killed last week when Israel bombed an island close to the Lebanese port of Tripoli. The allegation had been made by the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, whom the officials said they still held responsible for Sergeant Assad's safety.



Presidential captive: Señor Siles Zuazo with one of his abductors during his ordeal

Off-record comment brands Marchais as man of defeat

From Diana Geddes, Paris

A rare glimpse of the impassioned debate going on within the French Communist Party and its struggle for survival has been afforded by M Marcel Rigout, one of the four Communist ministers in the Government in an off-the-record conversation with journalists.

M Rigout is reported by several journalists, including the correspondent of *Le Monde*, to have cast doubt on the ability of M Georges Marchais, General-Secretary for the past 12 years, to lead the party out of its doldrums. For many, M Marchais had become "the man of defeat", he indicated.

M Rigout had apparently

never seen a party Central Committee meeting like last week's: members had been queuing up to speak, he said. Virtually all the speakers had criticized the Politburo's report on the European elections for having failed to provide an adequate analysis of the party's decline.

The report sought to blame the Government's economic policies for the slump in Communist Party support. The Central Committee, which usually rubber-stamps Politburo reports, merely said that the report had been "discussed".

M Rigout is said to have expressed concern over the

party's inability to attract the young. He believed that this was largely due to the identification of the party in the public mind with the Soviet Union and thus with the "Gulag" labour camps and denial of human rights.

Rigout's confidential conversation with journalists is said to have taken place on Friday night in Rome while he was accompanying M Pierre Mauroy, the Prime Minister, on an official visit. A French radio reporter decided to break the "off-the-record" rules and other journalists followed suit.

The Communist minister has since "categorically denied" making any such statement.

President hails Army rescuers

La Paz (Reuters) - President Hernán Siles Zuazo of Bolivia, freed unharmed 10 hours after armed police abducted him from his home on Saturday, has praised the Army's loyalty to the democratic Government during his ordeal.

The left-wing leader, aged 71, was released during an army raid on a house in the residential district of Miraflores and five people holding him hostage there took refuge in the Argentine Embassy, the former Interior Minister, Señor Mario Roncal, told reporters.

According to one of the soldiers who took part in the rescue operation, the kidnappers had asked for asylum in a foreign embassy in exchange for the President's freedom.

Señor Siles Zuazo, looking pale but smiling when he entered the presidential palace after being freed, told the national radio that his kidnappers were "hired men" and the people really responsible were "in other parts of the public administration".

He did not elaborate, but the Interior Minister, Señor Federico Alvarez, told reporters that two army officers, whom he identified only as Colonel Saravia and Major Ardaya, were behind the kidnapping, together with members of the police.

The Defence Minister, Señor Manuel Cardenas, said the President was taken from his official residence at dawn by a group led by Lieutenant Celso Campos Pinto, a member of the Presidential Guard and of the military police.

President Siles Zuazo, elected in 1982 after a series of unpopular and incompetent military governments, praised the attitude of the armed forces as soon as he had been released from his kidnappers.

Coup plot jolts Lisbon meeting

From Richard Wigg Lisbon

A two-day international conference on the democratic challenge in Latin America ended with the unwelcome announcement here on Saturday that the Bolivian President had just been kidnapped in La Paz by armed men in an apparent coup attempt.

Speaking here before President Hernán Siles Zuazo of Bolivia was finally rescued and his authority restored, the Bolivian Vice-President, Señor Jaime Paz Zamora, called on all Western governments to see to it that the process of democratization, begun in Bolivia in October, 1982, was not put into reverse.

He then launched into a passionate speech centred on Bolivia's foreign debt problem, as one of the main conference themes was the Latin America's debt crisis threatening the move towards democracy. But Señor Paz Zamora also admitted that decisions of the coalition Government in Bolivia hampered the tackling of his country's massive problems.

The meeting, organized by Portugal's ruling Socialist Party, was also attended as a new departure by Social Democrats, Christian Democrats and Liberals from West Europe, Latin America and the United States. The delegates stood applauding as a resolution was read out condemning the kidnapping of a democratically elected President.

Señor Paz Zamora had been taken aside during the conference's concluding session by Dr Mario Soares, the Portuguese Prime Minister, to give him the news from La Paz.

"How far can the Latin American democracies be held responsible for debts contracted by the dictatorships?" Señor Paz Zamora asked, complaining that this issue had not been raised in talks on debt servicing with foreign banks and governments.

Bolivia had to find, he claimed, more than \$900m (£643m) in interest payments required by the banks this year alone, yet its total foreign earnings from exports were estimated to be about \$800m.

In the presence of US delegates, many speakers criticized the Reagan Administration's covert backing of military solutions for Central America. They insisted that West European governments must give decisive backing to the Contadora group, which is proposing that the foreign forces be withdrawn in order to allow a dialogue between the local contenders and thus solve Central America's problems.

Nicaragua's Sandinista regime boycotted the conference, but Dr Guillermo Ungo, the leader of El Salvador's National Revolutionary Movement close to the left-wing guerrillas, heard during a closed-door session an appeal from a special representative of President Duarte to help to negotiate what he called a political solution.

Three brigades share out Beirut between them

From Robert Fisk, Beirut

Yet another security plan to smother the civil war in Beirut is supposed to go into effect on Wednesday, when three of the Lebanese Government Army's brigades - one of which destroyed five vessels at the head of the Gulf yesterday and shot down an Iranian fighter in a subsequent dogfight. An Iraqi military spokesman said: "An Iraqi radio said that two other 'enemy' vessels had run into naval mines as they fled from the attack, near the Khor Musa Channel which runs into the northern end of the Gulf from the Iranian port of Bandar Khomeini."

General Michel Aoun, the newly appointed Army commander, will be responsible for the deployment of the largely Shia Muslim Sixth Brigade in west Beirut, the mostly Christian Eighth Brigade in the east of the City, and the Seventh Brigade along the nine miles of rubble that separate the two sides.

Although some fighting continued in the mountains above Beirut at the weekend, both Shia Muslim and Druze militias ostentatiously withdrew some of their heavy weapons and tracked armoured vehicles, most of which had been stolen from the Lebanese Army last February, from the capital.

The Lebanese Government, meanwhile, continued to protest about the Israeli Navy's hijacking of the Lebanese

Iraq claims Gulf success

Iraq said its planes destroyed five vessels at the head of the Gulf yesterday and shot down an Iranian fighter in a subsequent dogfight. An Iraqi military spokesman said: "An Iraqi radio said that two other 'enemy' vessels had run into naval mines as they fled from the attack, near the Khor Musa Channel which runs into the northern end of the Gulf from the Iranian port of Bandar Khomeini."

African common market's first stage launched

From Our Correspondent Harare

The launching of the first practical steps towards a common market in Eastern and Southern Africa took place here yesterday amid stern warnings from several African leaders of the risks of failure.

At the inauguration of the "implementation phase" of the 14-member Preferential Trade Area for Eastern and Southern African States, frequent reference was made to the failure of the Organization of African Unity to meet last year, the collapse of the East African Community, and the threat which, the leaders said, was posed by South Africa.

Customs duties and tariffs on a variety of goods produced in the member states will be dropped by between 30 per cent and 70 per cent. Operation of the treaty, the first step by the Preferential Trade Area to liberalize trade in the region.

The treaty is intended to establish barrier-free trade in the area by 1992. Mr Robert Mugabe, Prime Minister of Zimbabwe, who is chairman of the PTA, said the steps achieved so far had to be defended and protected "against all possible manner of attack".

Only four new faces in Marcos Cabinet

From Keith Dalton, Manila

President Marcos has formed a new Government retaining his wife Imelda, who said earlier she was quitting politics, and appointing only four new ministers, including a replacement Foreign Minister.

Mr Cesar Virata, the Prime Minister, who is also Finance Minister, was reappointed to the second most powerful government post.

Only 10 of the 18 Cabinet ministers were elected to Parliament. The other eight were

appointed by Mr Marcos, who said the retention of almost all his old Cabinet members "indicates the basic success of the original policies of the Government".

Three members of the previous Cabinet who ran in the election seven weeks ago and lost - the Justice, Agriculture and Natural Resources ministers - were replaced.

The independently-minded Mr Arturo Tolentino, aged 73, replaced as Foreign Minister the

veteran Mr Carlos Romulo, aged 85, in the most controversial appointment announced at the weekend.

Mr Tolentino, who held the largely ceremonial post of Minister of State for Foreign Affairs in the old Parliament, is regarded as a political maverick. He was the only government candidate to survive an opposition election landslide in Manila.

A frequent critic of government policies, Mr Tolentino has

said he is opposed to Mr Marcos's retaining his decree-making powers in the new Parliament.

In appointing Mr Tolentino, Mr Marcos overlooked Mr Manuel Collantes, Deputy Foreign Minister for 18 years and the only government candidate to win one of the four seats allotted to Batangas province.

Mr Collantes has taken his removal from the Foreign Ministry as a personal slight.

Visitors to Argentina see glimmer of hope

From Douglas Tweedale, Buenos Aires

Two British MPs, Mr Cyril Townsend, Mr George Foulkes, and a peer, Lord Kennet, left Argentina on Saturday saying they had "more than accomplished" the purpose of their five-day visit despite isolated unpleasantnesses. They spent their last day in Buenos Aires under tight security after being attacked by nationalist extremists who burst into the Plaza hotel on Friday.

Argentine bodyguards with pistols drawn escorted them from the hotel on Saturday. The security guards also made a last-minute change of airport and sent the Britons home via Uruguay to avoid possible demonstrations on their departure.

Nevertheless, the three left in high spirits after five days of talks in which they sounded out the receptivity of President Raúl Alfonsín's Government to some specific possible initiatives for normalizing relations.

"We have found positive signs that people very close to the Government are interested in breaking the current deadlock in talks", Mr Foulkes, Labour MP for Carrick Cumnock said.

Mr Foulkes, Mr Townsend, Conservative MP for Bexley, and Lord Kennet said they were acting as representatives of the South Atlantic Council, a private lobby, and not the Foreign Office.

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'Star Wars' and the superpowers

Cool Moscow tries to regain initiative in propaganda contest

From Nicholas Ashford, Washington

The Soviet Union's offer to begin talks with the United States in Vienna in September on banning weapons in outer space - and Washington's swift acceptance - has quickly turned into a propaganda battle over "talks about talks", which could go on throughout the summer.

However, American officials, insisting that the United States was not laying down preconditions in its acceptance of the Soviet offer, seemed confident that the talks would eventually go ahead, if Moscow was genuinely sincere about its initiative.

They were not discouraged by Moscow's cool response to the United States statement late on Friday linking American willingness to talk about the demilitarization of space with a call to discuss ways of resuming the stalled Geneva talks on strategic and medium-range missiles.

A statement issued by Tass over the weekend described the Reagan Administration's response as "inadequate" and accused Washington of trying to alter the issue by setting preconditions. The Soviet Union wants to limit the talks only to space-based and anti-satellite weapons and not nuclear missiles. However, United States officials noted that Moscow had not withdrawn its offer.

The Reagan Administration had handled the latest Soviet attempt to regain the upper hand in superpower diplomacy

with an adroitness which owes as much to domestic political consideration as it does to any desire to lessen tension between Washington and Moscow.

Although the United States does not share the Soviet Union's enthusiasm for seeking a ban on anti-satellite weapons, believing it to be unverifiable, President Reagan's advisers realized that a straight rejection of the Soviet offer would damage the President's standing at home and overseas.

Earlier this year, the Administration told Congress it was not prepared to negotiate on space weapons because a comprehensive agreement would be unverifiable. Recently, President Reagan toned down his opposition saying "we haven't slammed the door" on negotiations. Friday's statement was the first time the United States had formally expressed its willingness to negotiate about space weapons.

Mr Reagan has been under attack by his Democratic opponents who have blamed his tough anti-Soviet rhetoric and failure to hold a summit meeting with the Soviet leadership on the arms control front. Although Mr Reagan has modified his approach towards Moscow in recent months, this had not produced a reciprocal softening in the Soviet attitude towards the United States.

US officials believe there were several motives behind the latest Soviet initiative. First, it reflects genuine concern on the part of Moscow that US technological superiority would allow Washington to gain an unsurpassable strategic advantage if Mr Reagan's "star wars" defence programme, involving space-based lasers, goes ahead.

Second, it was an attempt to improve Moscow's image internationally. The Soviet Union's refusal to resume talks on strategic and medium-range missiles after Nato's first deployment of Pershing 2 and cruise missiles in West Europe has led to accusations of intransigence.

Third, believing that the United States might reject its offer, Moscow was hoping to embarrass President Reagan just as his reelection campaign is getting under way.

The United States was only informed of the Soviet initiative shortly before it was announced by Moscow on Friday. It produced a flurry of activity in Washington.

Announcing the US response, Mr Robert McFarlane, the National Security Adviser, said the United States was ready to meet the Soviet Union "at any location agreeable" to discuss mutually agreeable arrangements under which negotiations on a reduction of strategic and intermediate-range nuclear weapons can be resumed; and an agreement on feasible negotiating approaches that could lead to verifiable and effective limitations on anti-satellite weapons.

Arms for fighting space battle

From Our Own Correspondent Washington

The Soviet proposal for talks on the demilitarization of outer space would cover both Asat (anti-satellite) and "star wars" weaponry. Asat weapons are intended to kill military satellites. "Star wars" weapons are intended to kill incoming missiles.

Unlike the United States, the Soviet Union already has an Asat weapon ready for use, though its effectiveness is debatable. Perched on top of a large SS9 rocket, the 4,400 lb satellite killer would make one or two orbits around the Earth before destroying its target, about three hours after launch, by exploding like a grenade and showering the satellite with shrapnel.

The Soviet Asat can reach about a third of the 40 or so US satellites now in space, but cannot reach the important

early-warning and communications satellites in orbits of 12,000 miles or higher.

The United States first test-fired a trial Asat weapon last January, using an F15 fighter as the launch vehicle. The weapon, a small 33 lb cylinder known as "the flying tomato can", would use eight rockets to home in on an enemy satellite and ram it.

A test of the homing device is scheduled for November.

Meanwhile, the Air Force is beginning work on a second generation of Asat weapons which would involve ground-launched satellite killers and laser beams.

"Star Wars" weapons form part of President Reagan's strategic defence initiative which he launched in March 1983. "Star wars" is a four-stage programme which would not be operational (even assuming it

receives congressional approval) until well into the next century at a cost of billions of dollars.

The ultimate aim of a "star wars" system would be to provide the United States with a protective umbrella against a surprise Soviet first strike, involving tens of thousands of nuclear warheads.

Initial research is taking place into ways of destroying as many missiles as possible in the first five minutes after their launch. "Direct energy weapons", mounted on space-based battle stations, would fire thin laser beams to burn holes in the missiles, either collapsing them or detonating their fuel tanks. Researchers are trying to harness the X-rays generated by a nuclear explosion for conversion into missile-killers.

Jews plead for more emigration

From Richard Owen, Moscow

A group of Leningrad Jews has called on Sir Geoffrey Howe to raise the question of Jewish emigration from the Soviet Union during his Kremlin talks.

The group, led by Jewish activists including Mr Yakob Gorodsky, Mr Grigori Vasserman and Mr Arkadi Goldman, said in an appeal to Sir Geoffrey and Mr Andrei Gromyko, the Soviet Foreign Minister, that although Jewish emigration had dropped to a trickle since the 1970s thousands of Russian Jews were still denied exit visas and thousands more wanted to join relatives in Israel.

The Leningrad group, all of whom have been refused permission to emigrate, said that, whereas under detente human rights questions had flowed from East-West talks on arms issues, in the current chilly atmosphere the resolution of humanitarian problems could lead to resume dialogue on larger matters, such as arms control.

Tass said on Saturday that a Latvian Jew sentenced in Riga to three years imprisonment last week for "anti-Soviet activities" had insulted Russia over a period of five years and had been ready to "abandon his parents" to get to Israel. Tass described Mr Zakhar Zunsheing as "inhuman" and said leaving his family behind would have run counter to the Helsinki agreements.

How to tackle Russia on human rights

By Henry Stanhope, Diplomatic Correspondent

Sir Geoffrey Howe and his advisers are bracing themselves for a cool response when the Foreign Secretary starts 48 hours of talks with Soviet leaders in Moscow today.

His visit, the first of its kind by a British Foreign Secretary since David Owen's trip seven years ago, has attracted fresh interest following the flurry of contacts between the superpowers over banning space weapons.

The Soviet Union's brusque rejection of Washington's offer to resume talks on "star wars" initiative is seen as confirming the worst fears of a continuing hardline Russian policy towards the West.

Sir Geoffrey will have the doubtful honour of being the first Western minister to hear at first hand the detailed Russian explanation of why they turned down the American response to their invitation for September negotiations in Vienna.

The atmosphere will not be helped by Sir Geoffrey's own resolve to raise human rights issues, notably the cases of the Russian dissidents Dr Andrei Sakharov, his wife Mrs Yelena Bonner, and Dr Anatoly Shcharansky.

British sources have said for some time that no dramatic results should be expected from his trip, which should be seen rather as part of the Government's long-term attempt to "broaden the dialogue" with the Russians.

Sir Geoffrey, who is due to

met his opposite number Mr Andrei Gromyko today and tomorrow, had been planning to renew the Western appeal for a Soviet return to the Geneva negotiating table on nuclear weapons, which the Russians walked away from last November. He had also been hoping to make a similar approach to President Chernenko himself, on the assumption that he will be given an audience with the Soviet leader tomorrow afternoon.

But the Russian attitude over the talks on anti-satellite weapons suggest that the Foreign Secretary's attempt will be no less futile than those by others before.

Hopes of boosting Anglo-Soviet trade are more realistic. Last year the Russians tipped the balance by about £270m thanks mainly to oil imported by Britain.

Among other topics of discussion are likely to be the Gulf War, Afghanistan and Southern Africa, which has recently been debated by teams of officials from both countries in Moscow.

● PEKING: China intensified its anti-Soviet rhetoric yesterday, likening the Kremlin's actions in Afghanistan to "Nazi atrocities" and denouncing Moscow's support for Vietnam (AP and Reuters reports).

The attack coincided with a visit to the Soviet Union by Chinese Deputy Foreign Minister, Mr Qian Qichen, Peking's specialist on relations with its communist rival.

Deal freezes Danish spending on defence

From Christopher Follott, Copenhagen

Denmark is virtually to freeze its defence budget in real terms for the rest of the decade. Four months of negotiations on a three-year defence budget for the period 1986-89 have ended in agreement between the ruling Conservative-Liberal minority coalition Government and the opposition Social Democrats on a deal fixing defence expenditure at its present annual level of DKK11,440 million (£800m) or 2.2 per cent of Gross National Product.

The agreement sets a 2 per cent ceiling on increases as well as allocating an additional DKK80 million (£6m) to strengthening civil defence and

other areas, although funds for imported fuel and military equipment will be price-indexed. The agreement effectively freezes Danish military expenditure. Since inflation is running at more than 6 per cent, the agreement allows the Danish army to remain at its present strength of five brigades (72,000 soldiers) by adjusting the length of compulsory national service. The deal also aims to bring the Danish Navy up to 76 vessels - three submarines are to be commissioned - and the Air Force up to 84 fighters - 12 new F16 aircraft are to be purchased - by 1989. The freeze has been greeted coolly in military circles

Congress adds its weight to Sakharov appeal

From Our Own Correspondent Washington

The United States House of Representatives has unanimously passed a resolution calling on the Soviet Union to disclose the health and whereabouts of Dr Andrei Sakharov, the Soviet dissident, and his wife, Mrs Yelena Bonner, and to allow them to leave.

The non-binding "sense of the Congress" resolution goes to the Republican-controlled Senate for consideration. The resolution is intended to add to international pressure for the release of Dr Sakharov.

● WIFE SEEN: Reliable sources have reported that Mrs Bonner has been seen leaving their flat in Gorky



Welcome landfall: The stricken 12,000-ton cruise ship, Sundancer, lying in Elk Falls industrial dock having limped into Duncan Bay, British Columbia, after taking on water. All 787 passengers and crew were rescued.

Baffled Guatemalans vote

From John Carlin, Guatemala City

Guatemalans went to the polls yesterday to elect a Constituent Assembly in what local officials apparently see as an important symbolic step on the road to democracy in Central America's most populous and most repressive country.

The task of the assembly will be to draft a new constitution that will pave the way for presidential elections promised by the military Government for next year.

The main polling stations here were busy but orderly, in contrast to the often chaotic bustle which marked the recent voting in neighbouring El Salvador.

"There's a widespread lack of understanding as to what is going on", one diplomat said, noting that many among Guatemala's large illiterate population had little idea what

a constituent assembly, let alone a constitution, might be. Seventy per cent of Guatemalans are Mayan Indians, their culture virtually untouched by the main trends of Western civilization.

There are 23 languages spoken in Guatemala and large numbers of Indians, especially women, do not speak Spanish, the official language.

Another problem facing the electorate is the large number of parties, 17 in all, most of them right-wing. Few of them have communicated what their policies might be in a campaign characterized by political violence - an average of 150 murders and 50 kidnappings a month.

People at the polling stations were presented with a large multi-coloured card with the names and the symbols of the parties, against one of which a

cross had to be put. To complicate matters, three of the parties have chosen the sun as their symbol.

People waiting in queues to vote early in the morning said they had come out of a sense of duty. None felt that their vote might change anything for the better in Guatemala, ruled by the military for the past 30 years. The last three elections have, by all accounts, been fraudulent.

The present military ruler, General Oscar Mejia Victores, who came to power in a coup last August, has said that he intends to restrict the powers of the new National Assembly. He wants to remain in charge of both the executive and legislative aspects of government until the presidential elections scheduled for next year. Few Guatemalans doubt his ability to do so.

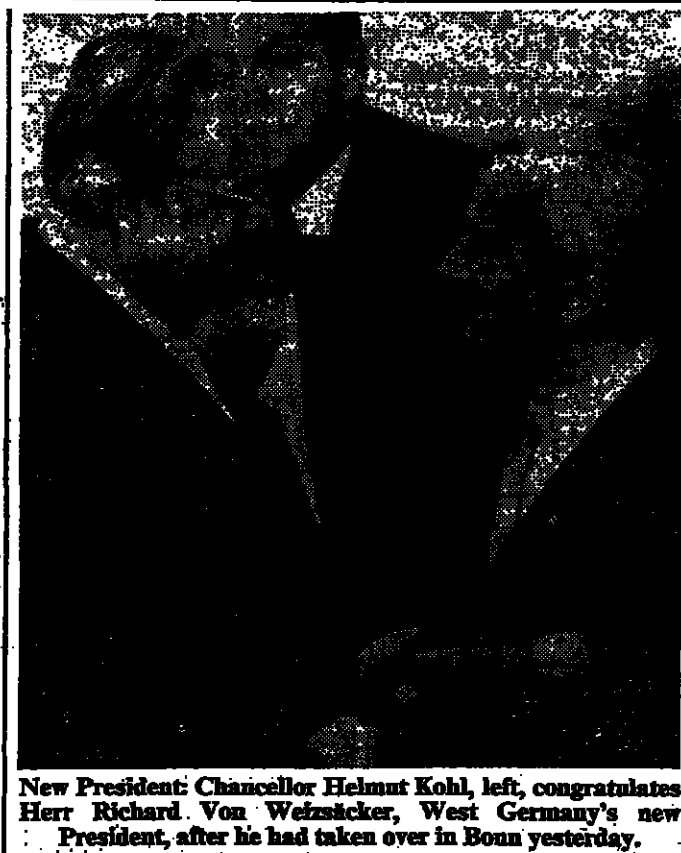
25 leave East Berlin refuge

From Michael Binyon, Bonn

As intensive negotiations resume between East and West Germany today over the fate of the East Germans inside the West German mission in East Berlin, 25 of the 55 refugees there were persuaded to leave over the weekend with assurances they would not be punished and an understanding they would be allowed later to emigrate to the West.

The others are understood to distrust the promises made by Herr Wolfgang Vogel, the East German lawyer empowered to negotiate a solution, and are refusing to leave the building where some have been living for several months.

Herr Ludwig Rehlinger, state secretary at the Ministry for Intra-German Relations, has been negotiating in East Berlin since Thursday, and will return there today after a weekend break.



New President Chancellor Helmut Kohl, left, congratulates Herr Richard von Weizsäcker, West Germany's new President, after he had taken over in Bonn yesterday.

European Notebook

Ireland takes over the baton

France handed over the baton of the EEC Council presidency to Ireland, this weekend in something of a blaze of glory.

The French presidency saw two great and expensive successes. The first was in holding a line against the growth in agricultural spending. The second was in buying off Britain to end its long-running budget fight within the community.

Both achievements will cost the community a great deal of money. It remains for Ireland with Mr Peter Barry in the EEC hot seat to consolidate what has been done so they can both have lasting value.

On agriculture the cheapskating will have to go on, since there is no way in which the Community can hope to have more money until the start of 1986. This means that in this year and throughout next year some methods of pruning back spending have got to be found. One of the most important of those ways is in holding back agricultural spending even further - a particularly difficult task for a country with as strong an agricultural interest as Ireland.

As far as the British budget problem is concerned, there is still the crucial "second condition" to satisfy before Mrs Thatcher is ready to put the whole package before the truculent House of Commons for approval.

The first condition was a long-term reduction in the size of Britain's contribution and that was met at Fontainebleau. The second condition was that EEC spending should be subjected to rigorous budget discipline, with any increase in agricultural spending held down below the level of increase of the Community's resources.

This condition has to be negotiated between finance ministers, who meet for the first time under the Irish presidency in a week's time to try to work out "guarantees" to control spending.

The sweeping up process from the problems of the past also includes completion of the negotiations to include Spain and Portugal in the Community. The success of Fontainebleau has doubtless sweetened the atmosphere and made these negotiations easier, but it will still be a long, hard haul to complete them in time to let both countries join by the target date of January, 1986. If that is to be possible, everything will have to be completed under the Irish presidency.

The same thing applies to the third Lome Convention being negotiated, now with the 64 developing countries who have chosen to sign a cooperation agreement with the EEC. The last two such conventions were both signed under Irish presidencies.

At the same time its neutral role, particularly in the Middle East, has won it some friends and influence in world trouble spots, which the former colonial powers cannot enjoy. It has already agreed to a meeting in September in Costa Rica with the five Central American governments.

It falls to the Irish, too, to work for European unity. The grand schemes outlined by President Mitterrand in the closing weeks of the French presidency will have to stand the test of ad hoc committees.

Irish imagination and inspiration will therefore be needed to see whether European flags, coins and sporting teams can be approved. It will also be under Irish guidance that the Community will address itself once more to the wider question of just how united it wants to be.

Ian Murray

Greenham tribute to Soviet activists

Moscow - Members of a Greenham Common Women's delegation, who have spent a week in the Soviet Union, say the unofficial peace movement is growing despite harassment and arrests (Richard Owen writes).

The eight "peace women" caused a sensation in May last year when they took a leading member of the banned Group of Trust into an official meeting with the Soviet Peace Committee, a government organization. The women also insisted on seeing unofficial peace activists and raising nuclear issues with Russians on the street.

The Soviet view is that the West alone is to blame for the arms race and that unofficial peace campaigns are anti-Soviet.

Rebels accused of executions

San Salvador (Reuters) - US Embassy officials have accused guerrillas of executing 50 soldiers captured during an attack on El Salvador's biggest power complex.

At least 76 soldiers and about 60 rebels were killed when the Carrón Grande dam and hydro-electric plant were overrun.

African Olympic boycott urged

Addis Ababa (Reuters) - The head of Africa's leading sports body has called on African athletes to boycott the Los Angeles Olympics to protest against British sporting links with South Africa.

Mr Henri Zongo, chairman of the Supreme Council for Sports in Africa, said the British Government had failed to prevent an English rugby tour of South Africa last month.

Rumasa boss seeks asylum

Frankfurt (Reuters) - The fugitive Spanish financier, Señor José María Ruiz-Mateos, facing fraud charges in Spain, is seeking political asylum in West Germany.

Señor Ruiz-Mateos, former head of the Rumasa business empire, was arrested at the airport here in April and has since been in custody, awaiting an extradition decision.

Crash kills 28

Pretoria (Reuters) - Twenty-eight people died and 50 were injured in one of South Africa's worst bus crashes. The bus left the road near Jamestown in Cape Province, 160 miles north of East London and ploughed across a deep ditch before smashing into a tree.

Papal concern

Rome (Reuters) - The Pope underlined his concern about the threatened independence of Roman Catholic schools during an audience with the French Prime Minister, M Pierre Mauroy.

Peru offensive

Lima (Reuters) - Maoist guerrillas of the Sendero Luminoso (Shining Path) killed 25 villagers in a remote part of the Andes, Peruvian police said. More than 160 people have died in the guerrillas' latest offensive, which began 11 days ago.

Kim welcome

Tokyo (AP) - More than 300,000 North Koreans turned out to welcome President Kim Il Sung after his six-week tour in which he strengthened economic ties with the Soviet Union and seven eastern bloc nations, Pyongyang radio said.

Dancer defects

Tokyo (Reuters) - A Soviet ballet dancer touring Japan has asked for political asylum in the United States. Yuri Alekhin, aged 26, of the Moscow Metropolitan Philharmonic Classic Ballet, is likely to fly to America later this week.

Masonic report may widen crack in Craxi coalition

From Peter Nichols, Rome

It may turn out to be a hot but short summer for Signor Bettino Craxi's Government, if in the course of this week he proves incapable of keeping his Social Democratic allies in order.

Still the most difficult problem for him is what he is to do with Signor Pietro Longo, the Social Democratic leader and Minister for the Budget. Signor Longo was among the famous 900 or so names in the lists of the now-banned P2 Masonic lodge and was the only party secretary named.

He has always denied membership of this allegedly subversive organization and refused to leave the Government quietly.

The Government's attitude will depend on the tone of the report due to be published here tomorrow by the parliamentary commission of inquiry into the P2 affair.

Publication of the first draft of the report last month almost brought the Government down

because it confirmed the lists of members including, by implication, that of Signor Longo. It has since been suggested diplomatically that he should leave the Government to concentrate his energies on his post as party secretary. But Signor Longo refuses this way out with some justification.

When Signor Craxi formed his Government last August, he proposed that party secretaries should take ministries to contribute to the coalition's stability. Of the five coalition parties three are represented in the Government, by their secretaries - Signor Longo, Senator Giovanni Spadolini, who accepted defence to go with his secretaryship of the Republic, and Signor Craxi, who kept the Socialist secretaryship.

Signor Longo is now being asked to leave the government for the same reason as he was originally invited to join it, namely to contribute to its stability.

HERON A Heron International Company

Over the brow it comes.

A roar of controlled power as the ZF gearbox is snicked into fifth and the turbo boost fluorescent display climbs to its maximum 10 lb per square inch.

The latest from the MOD undergoing secret trials on Salisbury plain?

Would even the new defence budget run to double thickness primer cataphoretically bonded to every part of the body?

Or 74 lbs of corrosion proofing material distributed round its vulnerable parts?

As for its acceleration, 'Motor' described its 0-60mph time of 7.9 seconds as "little short of sensational."

And the vast top speed you see below is high enough to let the Delta stroll past any GTE, XR3i or Golf GTi.

And while we haven't actually put a tank in our salt spray test, we've checked just about every other car, and none of them can withstand this deadly barrage as long as a Delta.

But despite being armour plated, the last thing a Delta feels like is a tank.

The horribly critical 'Car' magazine waxed characteristically lyrical:

"The TRXs and firmer suspension, allied to the Delta's advanced fully independent suspension makes a highly competent marriage.

The car turns into corners beautifully and powers through them without complaint from the rubber.

Quite simply, in all round roadholding and handling, there is no better small sports saloon."

Which only leaves us to add that Lancia Delta HF Turbo prices start at £7,250.

Not a lot to pay for the fastest 1600cc five door, let alone the fastest tank. (Even more difficult to refuse is the version shown here with Recaro seats, central locking, headlamp wash-wipe and sunroof at £7,990.)

Prices include car tax and VAT but exclude delivery and number plates.

For a brochure and address of your nearest dealer, write or phone Lancia Ltd, Lancia House, Herwood, Ashford, Kent, TN24 8DH, Ashford (0233) 25722.

The new Delta HF Turbo from £7,250.



The 121 mph tank.

From John Best, Ottawa

While an election "eventually" will have to be called, he said that, for the present, he wanted to move government business along as much as possible.

In what would seem to be a slap at Mr. Trudeau—who left Canada for 15 years—he said that government had failed to become too elaborate, too slow, too expensive.

Mr. Furrer cut the number of Cabinet committees from 13 to 10 in what he called phase 2 of a



State, Transport: William
 Lumley, Radio Works,
 services: Charles Apponte,
 Social Industrial Expansion,
 Social Communications: Ed Lumley,
 Fisheries: Donald Macdonald,
 Forest and Wheat Board: Lloyd
 Eworthy, Ministers of State,
 Women, Social Development: Judy
 Smith,
 Environment: Charles Cairns,
 Veterans Affairs: Bennett Campbell, Multiculturalism: David Collette, Small Business: Lew Lewis, David Scott-Reverence Roy Macdonald, Housing: William Johnston, Social Regional Development: Joseph Raimi-Bujalski, Youth, Fitness, Amateur Sport: Jean Lachance, Agriculture: Ralph Ferguson, Indian and Northern Affairs: Doug Firth,



AFRICAN REFUGEES

Part 1

100

the 1970s, the majority of the projects were directed towards the needs of the Third World.

Source: Population Reference Bureau.

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But the President says he will not go further without disturbing his own constituency of Sinhalese Buddhists.

And there's more where that came from. A good part of the money comes in the

staff on secondment to business and industry.)

The Action Bank
Small Business Service

India. But the President says he may not go further without disturbing his own constituency.

It will stand trial
political decision to

of Sinhalese Buddhists.

as a warning to the

هكذا من الضحى



The mouthful—'Minö-ségi Bor,' is Hungarian for the term Appellation Contrôlée, and is only ever used for the best quality wine.

Tradition has it that, whenever fresh pike was served it was accompanied by this wine, poured liberally with the usual excuse "fish like to swim."

Charlemagne the Great was so impressed with Hungarian wine that he ordered their vines to be transplanted throughout his Empire.

Besides being the name of the wine, Olasz Riesling is also the name of the grape variety which is grown over the rolling slopes of Southern Hungary.

Stowells of Chelsea have a selection of seven Wine Boxes including an Appellation Contrôlée Muscadet de Sèvre et Maine and an Anjou Rosé.

WINE
IS EASIER TO
DRINK
THAN TALK ABOUT
OUR OLASZ
RIESLING
MINOSEGI BOR
PROVES THE POINT

Stowells of Chelsea
WINE BOX

SPECTRUM

What's it like to have a heart transplant?
Thomson Prentice meets three men who have survived
and talks to the surgeon who has conducted
more than 100 transplant operations

Have a heart



Living life to the full: Geoffrey Finnegan on the road to health

Geoffrey Finnegan, an industrial diamonds expert with one of the world's leading gems companies, had just about everything a 55-year-old man could want. He was happily married, with his son a barrister and his daughter a marketing executive. "I had a nice house, a nice job, reasonable salary. I was doing everything I wanted," he says. "Then suddenly - Bang! I lost it all."

He lost it all during a tennis match at his local club near his home in Fleet, Hampshire, on Thursday, July 29, 1982. "I felt the symptoms but I didn't know what it was, and finished the match. On the Sunday I had a heart attack. It took a week of tests to find out, because I had no previous heart trouble. I went downhill from there."

Damage to his heart caused liquid congestion in his lungs. In the months that followed, he made frequent visits to the National Heart Hospital in London. "I'd stopped doing things, like playing badminton. I was spending a week or so in the hospital almost every month to clear my lungs. My heart beat was poor and I didn't have much energy. It was a lousy time."

His wife, Anne, was unable to help as she watched him deteriorate. "He had been as fit as a flea, always healthy, the sporty type, captain of the university rugby team, that sort of thing." She kept her most awful fears to herself.

In February, 1983, during one of his stays at the National, he received devastating news. "We'll have to consider a transplant," the consultant surgeon, Mr Magdi Yacoub, told him. Yacoub had by that time performed 47 such operations at Harefield Hospital, West London.

"He said I probably wouldn't survive any other kind of operation," Mr Finnegan recalls. "While he and his family tried to absorb the implications, the hospital struggled

to treat his condition with drugs, but his health continued to decline. "By the middle of last year, I couldn't move very much. Walking over 100 yards was slow and difficult."

He was on the waiting list. He knew through talking to Yacoub and hospital staff that his chances of surviving a heart transplant and living for at least a year were as high as 82 per cent. Between February, when he became a candidate, and mid-August, Mr Yacoub performed 23 more transplants.

Only two of those patients had died by August 18, when it became Geoffrey Finnegan's turn to be sedated and wheeled out of the intensive care unit at Harefield and along the short corridor to the operating theatre.

He had been given only a few hours' notice that a donor heart had become available. "Once I knew what was happening, I felt great about it. Not knowing was misery, and I had been waiting six months." His wife packed a bag and moved into a room at the hospital to await his return from theatre.

"I didn't know much about what was going on in the first few days," he says. "I woke up in one of three specially air-conditioned, almost sterile rooms they keep at Harefield for transplant patients. I was in Room Seven, my lucky number. Well, it is now."

He spent 10 days in the room, with his wife and daughter helping to nurse him. Another nine days in a more open ward followed. Then, exactly three weeks after the operation, he went home.

Two weeks later, he was able to walk again. "I wasn't too good. My muscles were wasted because I'd spent so much time bedridden." He went back frequently to Harefield for checks. The biopsies stretched from one a week to one a month. "There is a watershed after about three months," he says. "Of the people who die after the operation, most go within the first 90 days."

He grew stronger. In March he began a series of exercises. "I walk three miles every day, and the idea is to do them in 18 minutes each. A quarter mile equals four and a half minutes. I check it with my watch. The next stage is trotting."

He has returned to work and by now has had his first foreign business trip, setting up an exhibition in Switzerland. He is enthusiastic in his praise for Yacoub and the staff at Harefield hospital, and he is happy. "I feel as good as ever, if not fractionally better. As a family, we are closer-knit and even more happy than before. I played my second game of tennis the other day. This summer I shall do a great deal more. I lost it all two years ago; but now I've got it all back again."



Back on the beat: Policeman David Aggett and Sister Enid

Like Geoffrey Finnegan, Detective Superintendent David Aggett was a very healthy man in his early fifties. He was engaged in his job, leading a squad of Metropolitan police officers investigating company fraud in London, and had a contented homelife in Surrey with his wife Jean.

Then, last January, a virus infection struck a muscle in his heart. "There wasn't any warning. I just became very short of breath and filled up with water. I was exhausted," he says. On February 8, 1984, he was examined at the police medical centre at Hendon, and referred to the National Heart Hospital on February 10.

He was kept there for seven weeks, under daily observation by Magdi Yacoub. He was an obvious case for a heart transplant. "I didn't want the operation at first. I'd seen a

poor chap, a heart-lung transplant patient, on television. He was carried in and carried out and didn't last very long."

But he knew there was no real choice. He was transferred from the National to Harefield at the beginning of April to await the operation. The surgery was performed on April 6. Mr Aggett was given a new heart and went home with it on April 29. He was the 97th Harefield heart transplant patient.

Like Mr Finnegan and other transplant patients, he suffered muscle wastage through immobility, and the hospital provides him with drugs and advice on diet and exercise to build up his strength. "I'm walking every day to get myself back into shape," he says. "I'm looking forward to getting back to police duty within a few months, certainly by the end of the year."

Like Mr Finnegan he is happier now to know whose heart now beats in his body; not that the hospital would ever divulge the details. "I don't mean to be callous, but I've

The man who offers new hope

The risks and the costs attached to heart transplant surgery have been dramatically reduced in recent years, largely through refinements of technique and treatment introduced at Harefield hospital by Magdi Yacoub and his staff.

When the Harefield transplant programme began in 1968, patients had a 40 per cent chance of surviving a year after the operation. In 1981, the survival rate had increased to 75 per cent. By the end of 1982 it was 82 per cent and is now estimated at over 90 per cent.

At the same time, where patients were kept in isolation at Harefield for two months after the operation in 1980, the stay-in time dropped to six weeks, then a month, then 21 days, and this year some heart transplant patients will be strong enough to go home 10 days after the operation.

The operation cost £19,000 or £20,000 four years ago but has dropped now to between £7,000 and £9,000 per patient.

Today, a heart transplant recipient has a 75 per cent chance of living an extra five years at least.

Much of the credit for this is due to Magdi Yacoub, although he deflects as much attention from himself as he possibly can. The 46-year-old surgeon, who lives in West London with his wife and three children, points to the patients to explain his compulsive drive to improve heart transplant surgery.

"These are people who suddenly can't enjoy life any more and whose survival is limited to only a few weeks or months. They can hardly do anything any more. But his operation transforms them."

"You can't help but see. They can hardly believe themselves what they can do. Even many doctors don't realize the quality of life that can be regained after this operation."

Most of Yacoub's patients undergo surgery on the National Health Service. A few, usually from abroad, particularly Europe,



Lifesaver: Magdi Yacoub

are private patients. However, Yacoub and colleagues donate the private fees to the Harefield Heart Trust, a fund set up to help finance transplants, and which is permanently short of money.

Private foreign patients are important for another reason. They strengthen reciprocal arrangements which British hospitals have with many throughout Europe, both in the exchange of patients, and the provision of donor organs.

Each year, Yacoub flies thousands of miles, usually at night, in helicopters and small aircraft, to remove donor hearts.

"Many donor families see offering a heart for transplant as something emerging from a tragedy. Recently, the response from such relatives has been almost unbelievably good. These people have my complete respect. They are helping to save lives."

never been interested in the donor. I don't want to know anything about the operation. If I take my car in for a new engine, I don't ask the mechanic how he does it."

Three days after Mr Aggett's operation, RAF Sergeant Julian Lesser became transplant recipient 98 at Harefield hospital. The 39-year-old assistant air traffic controller logs the critical days of his life with the same thoroughness that he records the comings and goings of aircraft.

"I had a heart attack on June 23, 1983. At first it seemed I was going to be okay. I got back to work, but then I started going into heart failure. I was having blood clots in my lungs."

"I was admitted to the Middlesex Hospital on March 8, and transferred to Harefield on April 9. I had the operation the next day, and left Harefield to go back to the Middlesex on April 27. I came home on Monday, April 30. It could have been earlier, but we had things to prepare at home."

Sgt Lesser has five children, the oldest aged 18, and twins aged five. He was told by Magdi Yacoub seven or eight days before the operation that only a transplant could save him. "I asked for the weekend to think it over with my wife and children. We all agreed that there really was no option. I don't remember much about April 10, 11 or 12. On the 13th I was sitting up in a chair."

"On the 14th, a Saturday, I was up and walking. Now I'm able to walk a mile and a half. It will be more when I've built up my muscles."

"I go shopping with Daphne, my wife. She has to carry the groceries, poor girl, but I'm improving all the time. All I can say about Yacoub is that he is a bloody marvellous man. He has given me life, when I thought I had lost it."

When he talks about his health now it is with confidence. He, like Mr Finnegan and Mr Aggett, knows he has a future. They can all make plans again.

A blow to Woody's comic routine

The New Orleans Funeral and Ragtime Orchestra, a jazz septet led by Woody Allen, is now in its thirteenth year at Michael's pub in New York's Upper East Side. For most of those years, Allen has torn himself away from writing, acting and directing to be at the band's Monday-night-only sessions for nine months each year, from now on, but he intends to be there all the year-round.

"I'm not using ideas for films that require getting away from New York any more," Allen said. "I'm working totally in New York so I can sleep in my own bed every night. I don't even go away in the summer. Sometimes I can play at the pub right through shooting a picture, particularly if it is a script comedy. But crowd scenes with extras are more grueling."

"It's refreshing to go to Michael's pub and play," Allen continued. "But by midnight I begin to get antsy. I know I have to get up at 5 o'clock. I'm think of doing things only in Manhattan, not even Brooklyn or New Jersey, because it tires me to have to get up early, get in a car, drive somewhere, and unload."

Allen's style as a jazz clarinetist is based primarily on the willowy, quavering lines of the New Orleans clarinetist George Lewis, although the rougher, more aggressive attack of Johnny Dodds, an earlier clarinetist from New Orleans, also creeps in. Allen, who is 48, was first attracted to New Orleans jazz when, at the age of 15, he heard the Bravura playing of Sidney Bechet on soprano saxophone, an instrument that resembles a chubby golden clarinet.

Like many others, Allen found he was unable to emulate Bechet's passionate outpouring, so he switched to the simpler clarinet style of Lewis. He still admires Bechet and considers him the greatest of all jazz instrumentalists.

"Bechet had a more animal style than Armstrong," Allen explained with relish. "I like crudeness in jazz a lot. Johnny Dodds and Sidney Bechet had a ferocious animal style. George Lewis has a bluesy style with a lot of bad harmonies, and I like that disjunct sound, too."

Crudeness has been one of his goals for the New Orleans Funeral and Ragtime Orchestra.



Willowy Ways: Allen's style is based on George Lewis

"I try to push this band to greater crudeness," he said. "They're all better musicians than me and they have to play down to be crude. I have to play up to be crude."

This has given the band a split personality. Allen likes to play the relatively simple traditional New Orleans reper-

tory of spirituals and blues. Whenever he is not at Michael's pub, however, the band indulges their penchant for Chicago Jazz of the 1920s.

Despite this difference of approach, five of the six musicians who started the band with Allen in 1978 are still at Michael's pub every Monday evening.

Allen's clarinet playing was a very private affair until 1966, when he was coming into his own as a nightclub comedian. He took his clarinet, some records and a record player with him whenever he went on tour.

"We started playing in our apartments for fun," Allen recalled. "The others wanted to play in public, but I had no desire to communicate with an audience. I was already communicating as a comedian. But I agreed and I found they were right. It's more fun with an audience."

The band made its debut in 1978 at a one-time German beer garden. A brief stay there was followed by other brief engagements. Allen attributes these frequent changes to the fact that, while his name got the band bookings, club owners lost interest when people failed to return when they found out that he was playing jazz and not being funny.

Allen's interest in music started with his film

own band and the one at preservation. Hall in New Orleans, with whom he had played occasionally.

"In selecting music for my films, I use myself as a barometer," he said. "I use what appeals to me, which is jazz, standard melodies by composers like Gershwin and Porter, and classical music - Mahler, Bach, Brahms, Stravinsky. We think what music would be good behind a scene and I put on a record."

Allen feels that the music he picks for each scene is so important that, once he has found the right record, he cuts the picture to fit the music.

Allen's interest in jazz and films had led him to toy with the idea of making a jazz movie. "Eventually I will," he declared. "I'm the most qualified person to do a jazz film. I'm a film director and a jazz enthusiast for New Orleans jazz. I'd like to do a big, colourful, jazz film and I'd do it better than anyone else because I know more about it and I feel more connected with it."

John S. Wilson
© 1984 New York Times

CORRECTION

Lord Ogilvy is married to Viscountess Rothermere's daughter Geraldine, not Camilla as stated in the Times Profile on

Strange case of the nomadic but gregarious trolley

moreover...
Miles Kingdon

Nature Corner, with urban naturalist, "Bin-Liner".

Today: The Supermarket Trolley. The supermarket trolley is a comparatively recent newcomer to our shores (writes Bin-Liner). Until about 20 years ago it was unknown, but a large-scale immigration pattern from the USA occurred until quickly it became a familiar sight in our supermarkets and larger grocers, where it was kept in captivity.

What has happened recently to alert naturalists' attention is that the trolley has started to break out of captivity and live in the wild. It is almost impossible these days to go for a walk in our suburbs or inner town areas without coming across one or more of these large creatures browsing quietly on a traffic island or just standing peacefully on the pavement. So far we have been totally baffled by this new behaviour pattern.

The phenomenon is quite common in old-fashioned rural nature studies, of course, where an import such as minx or coyote later escapes from captivity, and inhabits vast stretches of East Anglia. But this is the first time it had happened to a purely urban creature. Nor has it happened to such close relations as the British Rail trolley or airport trolley, which very rarely stray far from their home. Only the supermarket trolley seems driven by the urge to escape.

Quite why it should want to do so is not clear, especially as it is totally unadapted to life in the wild. Its daily diet involves a considerable intake of washing powder boxes, packets of flour, frozen fish fingers, etc. and this it simply will not find out on our city streets. Many of them, I'm afraid to say, starve to death after only a few days and meet a tangled and rusty end, unless recaptured by their owners. And yet they persist in escaping.

Some larger stores such as Sainsbury's have tried a programme of keeping the trolleys chained up when not being taken for a walk yet even here they have met failure and have been forced to give up the idea, as if the trolley's drive to

moreover...
Miles Kingdon

Nature Studies Vol XI, No 6, puts forward the interesting theory that trolleys somehow develop a strong if temporary affection for visitors to supermarkets and try to follow them home. He even cites cases of families who have adopted a trolley as a pet and let it live in their house with them - in one or two cases the trolley has changed its diet entirely and takes only newspapers or the family laundry.

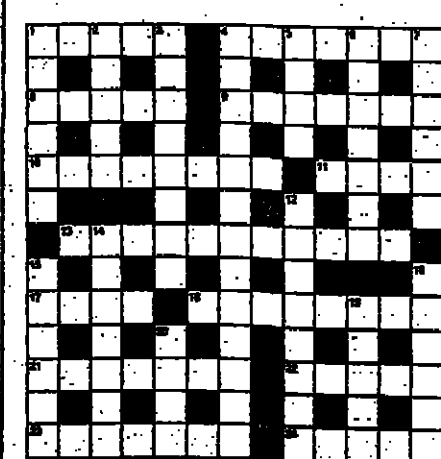
If this is so however, it still does not explain why so many trolleys are found in the street, having patiently not followed anyone home. He suggests that this may be because families grow tired of their demands or their great size compared with most household pets, and simply throw them out on the street as they might an unwanted dog or cat. If this is so, we certainly need more documented evidence than he provides.

My own personal theory is that the supermarket trolley's burst for freedom is prompted by an urge to inter-breed. If a well-known species such as a Tesco trolley finds itself surrounded entirely by other Tesco trolleys, it may well have an innate compulsion to search out and mate with, say, a Safeway or Finemore trolley, in order to keep the pedigree well mixed. Having said this, however, I must admit that I have no evidence to support it; I just happen to like the idea.

As a final postscript to these notes I must report a very rare sighting spotted last month: a fully operating, adult in-flight trolley seen in West London. These are normally only ever seen inside airplanes, where they have been trained to carry loads of miniature spirits, small hot-lunches, duty-free cigarettes, etc. This trolley, spotted near West Drayton, had, perhaps predictably, lost all its load of drink and cigarettes. None of the hot lunches, however, had been touched.

(Coming soon: the Inner City Tree-Loving Kite)

CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 382)



ACROSS:
1 Tink (5)
4 Russian government (7)
8 Obsessively excited (5)
9 Reciprocal (7)

DOWN:
1 Hair oil (6)
2 Trousers (5)
3 Riding gear store (4)
4 Dead Sea scrolls (7)
5 Jealousy (4)
6 Generosity (7)
7 Birthmark (6)
8 Lascivious (8)
9 Sunshade (7)
10 Haphazard (6)
11 Hungarian (6)
12 German empire (5)
13 Cab (4)

Recommenced dictionary is the New Collins Concise

SOLUTION TO No 381

ACROSS: 8 Excommunicate 9 Vic 10 Temperate 11 Swivel 13 Lambast 16 Accuse 19 Tying 22 Reluctant 24 Dan 25 Tongue twist
DOWN: 1 Heaves 2 Acoode 3 Immitate 4 Pummel 5 File 6 Kanaka 7 Wpc 14 Mainline 15 Sun 16 Aerate 17 Colony 18 Toasts 19 Gnaty 23 Cruz

CANCER RISK CLUE IN HORMONES

By DAVID FLETCHER
Health Services Correspondent

TELL-TALE signs of cancer have been identified by scientists 10 years before the disease strikes, the Imperial Cancer Research Fund announced yesterday.

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Please use this donation of £_____ to help continue the work of the Imperial Cancer Research Fund.

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وكان من الأفضل

MONDAY PAGE

He who hesitates need not be lost

Stammering affects half a million people in Britain but, as Jack Webster explains, there are new techniques that can help to control it

Michael Bentine does it. Jonathan Miller does it. The late Patrick Campbell made a television career out of it. George VI did it on radio. Assorted comedians will send an audience into raptures as they produce a theatrical hilarity from the agonizing affliction of stammering, or stuttering as the Americans call it.

Of course, we who falter in our speech must not protest too loudly. Others who suffer anything from deafness to crossed eyes are ready fodder for public amusement, so we are supposed to keep a sense of humour, difficult though that can be at times.

Clearly, there must be a kind of slapstick appeal as the stammerer goes careering among the verbal banana skins, knocked off balance by a treacherous consonant or falling full-length over a vapid vowel.

For the average stammerer, however, the laughter which Patrick Campbell would encourage in a studio audience carried far too many echoes of the mocking laughter which every one of us has suffered at the hands of childhood cruelty, or even adult thoughtlessness, to be a matter of easy acquiescence.

Not all of us have the aristocratic style to turn our stammer into a virtue of public performance.

But what causes stammering and can it be cured?

Most experts seem to agree that it is usually either psychologically based or due to imitation, particularly of the stammerer's parents or somebody else in the family.

Stammering divides into two main types: the tonic, which is the blockage of speech, and the clonic, which is the repetitive, machine-gun type.

As to a cure, the evidence is perhaps not surprisingly, that it is very subjective. People have been cured by everything from speech therapy through hypnosis to acupuncture and assorted quacks.

But few people with a real stammer, as opposed to a careless speaking habit, are ever completely cured, so the goal must be improvement. With more than half a million stammerers in Britain in regular pursuit of better speech, it is no wonder that a whole industry has developed around the subject.

"In America you go private," says Mr Bob Fawcus, head of the Centre of Clinical Communication Studies at the City University, London, "and I suspect there are people who make a very good living out of it."

Mercifully, it is mainly covered by the National Health Service in this country, although there are plenty of opportunities to go privately here too.

Most victims of stammering cause amusement in their own families because they can usually sing without hesitation, which proves something about the controlled rhythm which is part of singing but which eludes them in speech.

Indeed, singing used to be an important part of training in the 1930s. Therapists would attempt to funnel the principles of singing into ordinary speech.

But Mrs Ann Dewar, formerly of Edinburgh University, says: "For all the stammerers I have seen in my time there is not a single factor which ties them all together. Equally, there is nobody beyond help but it is



Stammering needn't be an impediment, as these four men proved. From left, George VI, Dr Jonathan Miller, Patrick Campbell - who turned it to his advantage and Michael Bentine.

Woman wins the word battle

A London solicitor, Jane Hamilton 28, reckons she has already spent around £2,000 in search of a cure and very little of that is covered by private health insurance.

A BUPA spokesman said there was definitely no cover for the less orthodox treatments, such as acupuncture or hypnosis, but that a general practitioner's referral to a specialist could warrant a benefit of between £175 and £350 in any one year.

Even there, the specialist is supposed to have either the initials LCST, MCST, or FCST, (all to do with the College of Speech Therapy) after his name.

With very little success, most people search for an explanation and come up with theories ranging from a domineering parent to some deeper Freudian root.

Miss Hamilton says that in her case, you can choose between a hard teacher who picked on her at school and a plate on her teeth which gave her a feeling of insecurity. There was also the possibility of having imitated other family speakers in the family circle.

"When I went to boarding school at the age of 10," she said, "my stammer was very bad and the head told my parents I should have treatment."

important that the treatment should fit the patient.

"It is reasonably easy to change the form of a stammer, to make it more acceptable, say, if the person tends to salivate or dribble. Stammerers are acceptable to other people, so what we must do is make them acceptable to themselves."

"It is an affliction which sinks some people like a stone while in others it arouses a determination to do better. In my experience, the hardest type to knock out of a child is the imitative one which has been developed on purpose, perhaps copied from a parent or nurse."

Coming from a speech therapy profession which tends to frown on other methods, Mrs Dewar is far from satisfied with the percentage of improvement and she takes a wholly liberal view of anything which alleviates the problem.

She says: "The Russians say the shock therapy of shouting at people does work. The Chinese

'There is something psychological in it - I know when it is going to happen'

ment and that, as it seemed psychological, I should see a psychiatrist.

"My parents were against that idea in case I grew up thinking I was some kind of nut case. At 13, when I was going to parties, I was very conscious of my speech and consulted my doctor, who put me on Valium."

"I came off that at 15 because I thought it was doing me no good and asked the doctor about hypnosis, since I had been reading articles about it. He sent me to a psychoanalyst who gave me treatment for two long years and that helped a little but not very much."

"I spent another two years going to another lady who was both a psychoanalyst and a speech therapist. I read books on the subject and all that was a great help."

"She made me look at the situations in which I stammered most - on the telephone, for example, or when I was in the company of some one I thought was superior to me. There is certainly something psychological in it. I can

anticipate when it is going to happen."

"I then went to a speech therapist, took part in group therapy, which taught me prolonged speech, and at present I am engaged in something called radiocopy. This is a system where you provide a piece of your hair or fingernail and they examine it and prescribe a herbal remedy. I must say that everything I have tried has helped a little."

"As an article clerk, I had to go to court and there I had some dreadful experiences. The only consolation was that the judge used to feel sorry for me and grant whatever I wanted."

Miss Hamilton's speech is now easy to listen to and she says she has recently improved largely because she has established her own legal practice and has been forced to face the responsibility of speaking well. Whereas she used to loathe the telephone, she now converses freely on it.

Had it affected her love life? She said: "When I was a teenager and feeling a particular affection for someone I blamed the stammer if I didn't hear from them again. In the same way, I thought my marks at school should have been better. But these may have been no more than excuses."

assure us that acupuncture works."

She disapproves of group therapy, which she has found to bring reassurance to some but a loss of confidence to many more. Like most experts to whom I spoke, Mrs Dewar does not look for Freudian explanations but rather takes the view that it is the stammer itself which sets up frustrations.

"Some of my patients have been quite mad people who are repressed sexually," she explains. "One young charmer told me, 'I can't even chat up a girl'. It had totally twisted his life. He couldn't order from a waiter."

"Some girlfriends will tend to laugh along with the waiter, as a means of getting out of the embarrassment. But that is terrible."

"Equally, in marriage, there are those who will use the other partner's stammer as a means of becoming dominant. That, too, is appalling."

Mr Fawcus, who runs one of

the 16 British centres for the training of speech therapists, deals mainly with people from the age of nine to 16.

"You cannot achieve much in single sessions of half an hour or less," he says. "So we see them for two weeks every day. It is not difficult to change the way a stammerer performs but we have to concentrate on how to keep him at it. There used to be a lot of breathing exercises but nowadays it is mainly tied up with the control aspect and the rhythm of speech."

Mr Fawcus does not have faith in acupuncture and says his experience of working with medical hypnotists is that, while you can produce a change of performance with post-hypnotic suggestion, the effect doesn't last long.

In this vast industry of stammering, there may be a scarcity of cures but never any lack of theorists, who produce papers by the dozen. More practically, there are a few

Have the will to keep talking

'You can control your speech but it takes a lifetime of hard work'

Nearly everybody hesitates while speaking. "Er, um" and repeated words litter our conversation. What sets a stammerer apart is not only the degree to which hesitations interrupt his speech but also his view of himself as a stammerer.

Many children unconsciously go through a period of non-fluency around the age of three. This is quite normal. They are eager to express all their experiences without the vocabulary to back them up. The result is hesitation which most children grow out of.

In a true stammer the speaker is only too conscious of his lack of fluency. While most people concentrate on what they want to say, the stammerer is worried about how he is going to say it.

He anticipates difficulty, and sets himself a trap of verbal acrobatics that is almost bound to result in the stammer he expects. Stuck on "m", he will change his "mountain" to "hill" or even change the sentence to avoid the word altogether.

Shopping, answering the telephone or talking to strangers seem fraught with peril. He will go to almost any lengths to avoid situations that he envisages will be tricky.

listening, anticipating and then landing in trouble.

And some appalling speakers experience wonderful fluency with these machines. However, if these aids are used too frequently there is a danger the stammerer will "beat the machine" by becoming aware of his speech in spite of it.

As a long-term method of speaking fluently the stammerer is forced to use phrases rather than single words, as normal speakers do. And by gently running the sounds in words together, the tensions that create the stammer have less of a chance to build up. But the concentration required for these techniques is quite demanding.

For somebody who has never stammered the equivalent is being obliged to learn to stammer. To be told that stammering is normal and is the only acceptable way to speak for the rest of your life.

Catherine Allen-Buckley
Catherine Allen-Buckley is a London speech therapist.

single word was suddenly speaking in a regularly slow but acceptable manner.

I tried it myself to confirm that the effect was remarkable. Whereas I would not have cared to face an audience before, I am now accepting invitations to address gatherings of all sizes.

I may never be a public speaker by nature but now I can at least get up and deliver what I have to say.

I limit the use of the Edinburgh Masker to public speaking in the belief that its buzz could be irritating in conversation, but there are those in more desperate circumstances who are glad to use it constantly.

Thousands of the sets, costing about £100 each, are now being used through the National Health Service. The Dewars are so intent on helping victims that they have not even bothered to take out a patent.

Jack Webster

PENNY PERRICK

Hair-raising experience in Belgravia

At the scruffier end of the King's Road, in Chelsea, there used to be a hairdresser heavily patronised by career women. Mindful of its clients' packed schedules, the salon opened early, closed late and operated throughout Saturdays.

It also devised a hairstyle suitable for those with no time to spare on personal maintenance: a style that could be washed, cut and blow-dried in little over half an hour.

This style did not require very many visits to the hairdresser and that is perhaps why the sympathetic salon finally went bankrupt and closed down. For several months this didn't worry me - as I've already mentioned the salon's hairstyle could look after itself for ages - but finally my fringe started to get caught up in my eyelashes and I tracked down the man - let us call him Gianni - who had been the mainstay of the King's Road establishment.

I found him in a different world, called Belgravia. A world of backcombing and hairspray and sitting under a drier reading Judith Krantz while your hair took hours to dry on its big rollers. "Gianni", I said taking in the manicured and the artfully-coloured hair being tortured into puffy helmets, "what do you want to do?" "Most of the time," he said, "they go to the hairdresser."

And so they did, sometimes twice a day. Once in the morning for a full styling session and then again in the late afternoon for a comb-out.



The styles they chose had a terrific amount of built-in torque, amounting to going to bed for the night with weak havoc on those startling lacquered topknots, making them collapse like soggy meringues. At more than £20 a visit, these women must be spending about £100 a week on their hair. As I contemplated this astounding fact, I thought that the ex-Mrs Johnny Carson's monthly expenditure (furs and jewellery: £26,000; clothing: £3,500) might indeed be possible and that had she not been awarded a divorce settlement of £22 million with £7 million to come, she would be in acute financial distress.

I also thought about a report on hairdressing apprentices put out by the Northern Ireland Women's Rights Movement. It revealed that, out of a sample of 16 trainees, 15 per cent earned £25 per week but 60 per cent were paid less - some of them taking home only £10 a week. Fewer than half had a recognised lunch break and most worked a 40-hour week.

It is certainly not the fault of the elegantly-coiffed matrons of Belgravia - but hairdressing trainees on the other side of the Irish Sea are underpaid. One might even argue that if women stopped going to the hairdresser, trainees would be put out of a job altogether. All the same, it is uncomfortable to be reminded of extremes of wealth and poverty and I think I shall cut my own fringe for a bit.

One of the many extraordinary things about Mr Peter Stephan, the man who made a million treating people with injections of animal cells in order to regain their lost youth, is that at 41, he looks a weary 55. It's hard to believe that this battered-looking gentleman with the receding hairline and trembling jaws is a contemporary of such boyish figures as Ian Ogilvy, Mick Jagger and Cliff Richard. Mr Stephan looks like the sort of man that nobody in his right mind would buy a course of cell revitalization therapy from. Which just shows that, he must be a salesman of genius.

Officially, I am a Smoan Ranger

Novelists, discard your notebooks; playwrights, jettison your scripts; all your best efforts have been made to seem marginal and anecdotal yet again by the appearance of that true abstract and brief chronicle of our time, the *General Household Survey*.

No individual, however industrious, could ever assemble a picture of the way we live one tenth as comprehensive as this. Not many good jokes, perhaps, but the very stuff of authenticity.

Its agents are ceaselessly knocking on our doors questioning and classifying. People on the run and those who sleep under railway arches are not represented. In addition, the survey records only what people will own up to. Perhaps there is a place for fiction after all.

We are cross-referenced this way and that by criteria arranged in columns by income, tenure, marital status, and according to whether we are Professional, Manual, Junior Non-manual, Semi-skilled Manual and Personal Service (Smapps), or Skilled Manual and Own Account Non-professional (Smoans). I have a feeling, stripping away all pretensions, that I would be categorized as a Smoan. If so, the survey fully informs me of the lifestyle of my peers: it is the ultimate Smoan Ranger's Handbook.

The archetypes lurk in the statistics. Families are smaller, cohabitation before marriage commoner; more of us have more consumer durables in spite of recession; more are unemployed. Scarcely a quarter of households now fit the advertiser's stereotype of the couple with dependent children; we may soon be in a



minority to one-person households, already almost as numerous.

Self-deception figures as well as vanity. Heavy smokers and drinkers are the least likely to admit that their preferred drug could damage their health, even in excess. Ten per cent of heavy smokers stoutly maintained there was no harm in the weed.

Myths are nailed: mothers of dependent children, except under-fives, are no more likely than others to miss work to nurse them when they are sick.

There is trouble in store over the survey's definition of the head of the household. It is a sensitive and significant issue, as many of the tables assume that a family can be labelled in socio-economic terms according to the head of household's trade, income or qualifications.

In our own family we normally take turns to masquerade as HOH for questionnaires, petitions and the like. This casual approach would not do for the survey. It has given rules for identifying the HOH in cases of doubt.

Granting the impracticability of tests to select the dominant personality, and in many cases of getting a straight answer to that delicate question about personal income, it has chosen to award the palm to the member of the family who owns the house or pays the rent, or otherwise wears the trousers in respect of tenure - unless that member has a husband, in which case the primacy goes to him.

"Where two members of a different sex have an equal claim, the man is taken as HOH", the survey blunders on. It will have some explaining to do if it ever knocks on our door.

But I wonder whether we would qualify anyway. We are that rare survival, a nuclear family - intact couple with two dependent children - but are we a household? "A household is a group of people who all live regularly at the address... and who are all catered for, for at least one meal a day, by the same person", says the rubric. It is not the communal breaking of bread that defines the household, but the incessant identity of shopper and cook.

If, like many families, we share the shopping and cook for ourselves during the week and when we come home, sitting down to a communal meal only at weekends and special occasions, then we are no household but a congeries of rootless Smoans.

George Hill

General Household Survey 1982 (Stationery Office, £13.70).

TALKBACK

From Pamela Simms, Tupperware manager, Ravone, Park Road, Willaston, South Wirral. I really must object to the tone of the article, "It's my party and I'll buy it if I want to", by Stephanie Calman on June 11. Its implication was that one needed to be either physically or mentally handicapped before one would find it necessary to buy a Tupperware product.

In my experience the vast majority of ladies (and gentlemen) that I have occasioned to meet through my work are only too pleased to extol the virtues of their Tupperware purchases. They are very eager to acquire more and share their ideas with friends as most of the products are multipurpose. Their high regard for Tupperware is generally because of something which Ms Calman was kind enough to point out - namely the 10-year guarantee.

Along with this guarantee the customer receives service and individual attention from her Tupperware dealer. I was introduced to Tupperware only 12 months ago, a relative newcomer considering its 24 years in Great Britain.

If it is as mediocre and superfluous as Ms Calman implies, why has it sold so well for so long?

From Mr D. A. S. Drybrough, Dolphin Cottage, Mounts Lane, Newham, Haventry, Northamptonshire. I have suffered from Schatzki Ring for more than 20 years, and after many visits to doctors I discover it is incurable.

It continues to give trouble and I have tried all sorts of remedies, such as hypnosis - rather half-heartedly - and acupuncture, which has been of some help, besides being very pleasant while it lasted.

The effect of the disability is an involuntary and usually unheralded constriction of the entry of the oesophagus into the stomach, blocking food and causing it to build up in the oesophagus. It has to be relaxed before the spasms relaxes and eating can recommence.

You can imagine the upset caused in some circumstances by my having to rush off and be sick? Hostesses take it as a personal insult to their cooking and business colleagues are annoyed at having to break off conversation.

Tomorrow



The outrageous best in student fashion

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PARIS DIARY

Frank Johnson

A plain man's guide to Michel

The death of Michel Foucault was announced on the evening television news. The following morning, *Liberation's* "Michel Foucault est mort" was superimposed on a picture of him covering an entire tabloid front page, at his desk in a darkened room - one hand splayed, as if expounding one of his more intractable texts to a follower, or possibly to himself. *Liberation* is the paper of what might be termed France's mass-intelligentsia - teachers and television researchers, people in advertising, waiters at the Brasserie Lipp - and is edited by those 1968-ists who have not become followers of Professor Hayek. A lot of Foucault's vote seems to have come from this constituency. "He gave us a lesson in life, without knowing that death, behind him, was doing its work," said the headline on one of the eight full pages devoted to him.

Later in the day, the larger pages of *Le Monde* had two devoted to him, as well as almost two full columns on the front page. *Le Monde* is the paper of 1968-ists who no longer think that 1968-ism is a good idea, but who drew the line at Professor Hayek. People like that run many of the most important French institutions, such as *Le Monde* itself and the government. "The thinker citizen" and "an absolute relativism" were among the headlines.

All of which raised among Anglo-Saxons the pressing issue: who was he? His death had coincided with the publication of the third volume of his work called *L'Histoire de la Sexualité* which, to Anglo-Saxons, makes him some kind of a writer of sex manuals. He was also completely bald which, to Anglo-Saxons, is what happens to you when you spend too much time on matters connected with sex. But, judging by the television obituaries, he was very jolly which, according to Anglo-Saxons, people preoccupied with sex are not supposed to be.

But apparently his work was not all sex. His first book was about mental illness, his second about madness in antiquity. The 14 others tended to have titles along the lines of *The Will to Know* and *The Concern To Be*. That told us nothing. By the end of the week, superimposed on another full-page photograph of the dead thinker, *Le Nouvel Observateur* talked of *La Passion de Michel Foucault*, which would have strengthened the Anglo-Saxon's original sex-manual hypothesis.

Whoever he was, he was manifestly someone whom no representative Englishman could tolerate. But *Le Monde* seemed to think, after a generation of Pseudo's Corner, that Britain's educated classes still lived under the French occupation. To speak for our country, it produced Mr Michael Ignatieff, who assured France that "in all the areas of his work, Foucault had an enormous audience in the Anglo-Saxon world". Who was this collaborationist? Apparently a Fellow of King's College, Cambridge, *Le Monde* having taken care to seek allies in the traditionalist rightist firms.

"In Anglo-Saxon countries," a contested influence, was how *Liberation* delicately put it. Under that headline, one came upon Mr John Sturrock, of the *TLS*. "Speak for England, Sturrock!" one cried. "I do not think that Foucault occupies a very important place in England," his measured assessment began. It was about time someone said it.

Put your card on the table - and leave it there

I dislike listening to those people who are always complaining they have been swindled in France. I dislike listening to British complaining that very much like hearing it from the French. But readers should be warned of one trick which I have discovered this summer.

When, after seeing your credit card advertised on the door, you go into a restaurant, eat a meal and prevent that card from payment, some restaurants will tell you that the machine is broken - and you must pay cash. This is an attempt to avoid paying the percentage to the card company.

When told of the broken machine, on no account admit to understanding any French. Hide all copies of *Le Monde* or the last Foucault. Wave the credit card at the advertisement on the door. Keep this up even if you ordered the meal as if you were Racine. Eventually, in exasperation, the machine will be produced in working order. British restaurants might also indulge in this trick in which case this advice, suitably adjusted linguistically, is also offered to French visitors to Britain.

BARRY FANTONI



"Best. Way to buy a couple of million oil shares?"

Fighting divorce with faith

by Robert Runcie
Archbishop of Canterbury

Church and state seem to be whittling away at the stability of marriage. Lawyers may plead that they are operating more humane procedures. Churchmen may say they have to cope with the casualties. However genuine these claims, they do not convince the critics. This may be an appropriate time to restate some principles.

The Christian Church did not invent marriage, which has its roots in the origins of mankind. It is a great human blessing. Christians have always known this but they have been subject to failures of nerve about it. They have worried that the physical union of a man and a woman cannot truly be the kind of thing which their spiritual God would approve. So they tended to put all the emphasis on the obedient procreation of children, as if marriage were good only for populating the world.

Lately Christians have seen more clearly and said more distinctly that our physical natures and our emotional natures are worthwhile in their own right. There is and is meant to be much more to marriage than offspring. But it still looks as if we cannot entirely shake off the idea that God grudges us our joys and exacts a penalty for them. It is the permanence of marriage now, rather than its fertility, that we seem somehow to have turned into a price we have to pay rather than a particular blessing.

Christians know that marriage is "for better or worse," but sometimes this is made to sound more like a threat than a promise. It ought to mean "whatever happens, we can count upon each other." It is a travesty to make it mean "even if we regret it we are still lumbered with each other for life."

Can we wonder that the modern world is so divorce-minded when Christians give the impression that the point of marriage is to stay together whether you want or not? When church people are asked what they believe about marriage, they are apt to talk about the wrongness or the impossibility of divorce and its unhappy prevalence today.

But when the Lord was asked about divorce as

a problem in his time, we are told that on the contrary he forthwith began to talk about marriage. The Pharisees, to test him, asked, "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?" Jesus replied that divorce is permitted in the law because of "hardness of heart" but that marriage goes back to the creation. God's purpose is that man and wife shall "become one". So we see the Lord firmly putting divorce in its place.

We are right to be deeply concerned when marriages fail: concerned for the bitter disappointment and waste, and for the shock waves that spread into other people's lives. Sometimes there is someone to blame, but blaming is not much help. Putting asunder is not a sin like greed that people commit because they like it. To punish divorced people is no way to assuage their, or our, guilt. But mercy is not a cheap and easy alternative. Human mercy is always liable to a kind of soft corruption, unlike the mercy of God. One way we can recognize that God was in Christ is in the toughness of his forgiveness, the inexorable claim in his mercy.

Failure in marriage has always been a problem. Some of the reasons why it is an enlarged problem today are not bad reasons but good. People live longer, and they expect more of the relationship of marriage. We only need to look at tombstones in an old churchyard to see that until lately it was likely to be premature death that broke up homes. Two hundred years ago the average marriage could be expected to last 15 years. Now the expectancy would be 50 years.

It is a lot to ask that two young people meeting in their twenties should vow to be faithful to each other for their whole lives, when they may easily live into their eighties, and when they have learnt to mean by "faithful" not just docile and well-behaved, but romantic and companionable. Furthermore, women are seek-

ing an identity which is not solely dependent on the family.

But many people are making these vows and meaning them and keeping them. As Christians we need not be surprised that life asks a lot of people. We have no right to go back on the demanding and inspiring idea of fidelity. We need to show it in action.

What we are asking for is not conformity but response. The great ideals, of which faithfulness is one, are great realities, not vague hopes. There would be no point in the Christian Church or anyone else "upholding marriage" unless human beings were the kind of creature to whom lasting "partnerships" are fundamentally natural. When we try to enforce ideals, however noble, all we get is unfairness. They need to grow as a harvest with patient cultivation.

Preparation for marriage is not teaching engaged couples an eleventh commandment, "Thou shalt not divorce". It ought to be confirming and developing their own understanding and entering into their celebration. We offer them the possibility of a union of two lives in which dependence and independence enhance each other, in which love comes to mean more than romance but certainly not less, and much more than mere selfishness.

No doubt there will continue to be disagreements and arguments about what to do when fidelity fails. But if we can communicate a positive understanding of marriage as it can be, as two people making a present of their whole lives to each other, so as to give each other unlimited scope to grow in mutual encouragement, that is what goes in the front of the picture and everything else can fall into place.

Society and our children desperately need good marriages. The law deals with fairness and with people's rights. The Church has to communicate a message about what Austin Farrer called "the union of duty with delight". We cannot expect the lawyers to do our job for us.

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Nicholas Timmins previews a damning indictment of welfare failure

The benefit trap that leaves both sides baffled



Robert Runcie after Cruikshank's 'Oliver asking for more'

diet, laundry and hot water; and one-off lump sum payments for a range of items from cookers and furniture to linen (not carpet), bedclothes, funerals, house repairs and fuel bills.

Until 1980, both of these extra forms of payment were discretionary. Claimants had no right to them. The aim of the reform was to provide an entitlement. They were to become a right, not a form of discretionary state charity. The rules covering them were published. In theory therefore claimants should have found the system easier to understand, and it should have been easier for them to get what they were entitled to. Life for the staff, operating set rules, not discretion, should have been simpler.

The message from the Policy

Studies Institute is that the reform has not worked. Three-quarters of a random sample of 1,800 claimants had "no idea at all" how either form of extra payment worked, and over half did not even know that they existed. A picture of "utter bewilderment" among claimants emerges, the report says, which may not surprise "but should cause shock".

Such ignorance would not matter were it not that for the extra payments to be made, they have to be claimed. Few have expert advisers to tell them of their rights and the research shows that in many cases the benefit staff themselves are failing to point out people's entitlement.

Six out of seven staff said there is too much work to give enough attention to each task. The report

says this is hardly surprising when the number of benefit officers has been cut and the number of claimants has risen sharply - up over 30 per cent in three years as unemployment has risen.

Staff are illprepared for the change from discretion to entitlement. On average they received just two days training, and when in doubt do what they had done before rather than look up the new rules. Asked test questions, a worrying proportion produced "don't know" or wrong answers.

That the confusion among staff and claimants is depriving people of benefit is shown by huge variations around the country in the number of extra payments claimants received.

Even allowing for variations in local circumstances, claimants in some parts of the country receive five times as many grants as claimants in other areas.

Heating additions, which are semi-automatic, are generally paid. But the survey found that two-thirds of those entitled by right to other extra allowances are not getting them.

Welfare rights advisers were given 166 randomly chosen cases to check, and any extra claims they believed people were entitled to were put to the local office. As a result, no fewer than three-quarters were awarded more money.

More than one-third were given extra weekly payments averaging £6 at a time when the average income of claimants was £41.20 - an increase of 15 per cent. Two thirds were entitled to single payments averaging £120 - the equivalent of almost an extra three weeks' income. A quarter gained increases of £200 - the equivalent of almost five weeks' income for people living on very little money indeed.

"It is difficult to suggest that supplementary benefit is really effective in solving the problems of people in serious trouble", the report says.

For such a report to have landed when a review of supplementary benefit was not being planned would have been a bombshell for the Government. Indeed it is rumoured that the report's arrival in January helped tip the scale in favour of the review announced in April.

The question for the Government is where to go now. One lesson seems clear. Like the botched reform of housing benefit, the 1980 reform of supplementary benefit seems to have been introduced too quickly, with too little training for staff in a system that is too complex, with the implications of how it would operate too poorly thought through. That trap must be avoided this time, whatever reform is chosen.

The problem for the Government, again as with housing benefit, is that most changes that would simplify the system look likely either to cost more or to exclude people from payments which they may not be getting but which, on the evidence of the PSI study, they do actually need.

The Reform of Supplementary Benefit, Policy Studies Institute, 1-3 Castle Lane, London, SW1E 6DR. £12.00.

Verdict: a change in the rules for the worse

Jim Heather-Hayes hanged himself at Ashford remand centre in July 1982, aged 18. The inquest heard that prison officials had failed to observe standing orders on the prevention of suicides and the jury returned a verdict of lack of care.

It was thought to be the first such verdict recorded on a death in custody. As a result, the Chief Inspector of Prisons was asked to investigate suicide precautions at Ashford, and it was found they were routinely disregarded.

Last May, Matthew Paul hanged himself while in police custody in London. He had been held without charge, without access to family or a solicitor, for 36 hours. He hanged himself from the "wicket gate" in his cell door, left open in contravention of police general orders and despite a coroner's warning of this danger a few months previously in another suicide case.

The coroner directed that the isolation of the prisoner, coupled with the opportunity provided by the open flap, could constitute "lack of care". Again the jury returned such a verdict.

The two cases are important in both, the jury was able to point the finger when it thought that the relevant authorities, police or

prison, had neglected their duty to ensure that any risk of suicide was not unnecessarily increased.

But from today revised Coroners' Rules come into force which could have the effect of abolishing "lack of care" verdicts in cases of suicide. The new rules, which consolidate and update the present 1953 rules, provide a list of "suggested verdicts". Under these, "lack of care" would no longer be a verdict in its own right. Instead, it may be added, the rules suggest, where appropriate, to a number of other verdicts such as death from natural causes, industrial disease or drug abuse. But not to suicide.

Critics of the change, notably Inquest, the pressure group on coroners, are concerned that the result will be the closing off of one of the few avenues of criticism in coroners' courts, which are denied any role in determining civil or criminal liability.

A High Court ruling in 1982 made clear that "lack of care" verdicts did not conflict with this neutral role of the coroner's court. "Lack of care by another" or "others" was quite consistent with the Coroners' Rules not to inquire into blame, provided the "other" or "others" were not named. Since then, lack of care

verdicts have been recorded at four inquests into deaths in custody.

Such a verdict did not imply that a person owed a legal duty of care to the deceased, it held, and therefore was a valid verdict to reach. Furthermore, the jury had a statutory duty to consider such a verdict when inquiring into how a person had died.

But Inquest is concerned that the new rules, while not legally binding, will reverse the effect of that judgment. David Leadbetter, co-director, says: "The danger is that coroners, many of whom do not fully appreciate this judgment, will blindly follow the new rules and one of the only ways of apportioning blame for a death, when it is as plain as a pikestaff how it occurred, will be gone."

Dr John Burton, secretary of the Coroners' Society, says that "lack of care" verdicts are unsatisfactory because they are not specific. "It has always been a delphic verdict; you can make of it what you like," he says. "One ought to know what it means, and for that the verdict needs to be qualified."

The way round it, he suggests, is for juries returning such verdicts, for example in the case of a hanging in police custody, to make a rec-

ommendation to the effect that steps be taken by the authorities to ensure that it cannot happen again.

But Inquest says that many less enlightened coroners will not encourage juries to make recommendations. Second, recommendations are often ignored, as they are not a formal part of the verdict in the same way as riders, abolished in the wake of the inquest in 1980 on Blair Peach, who died in the Southall political riot the year before.

Tony Ward, also a co-director of Inquest, says: "To exclude lack-of-care verdicts in cases of suicide or accident means that if a prisoner cuts his wrists and is left to bleed to death, the neglect cannot be reflected in the verdict unless it is such as to amount to manslaughter."

"Common sense, common morality and the statutory duties of coroners demand that when people who are in the care of other people or in institutions die in circumstances where they would not have died had they been cared for properly, that lack of care should be recognized as a significant causal factor in their deaths."

Frances Gibb

- Legal Affairs Correspondent

Ferdinand Mount

Let's learn to play the Euro-system

The carp in the pond at Fontainebleau are legendary, or, to put it another way, you can say almost anything you like about them and somebody will believe it. Were they put there by Francis I? Or did they all die during the French Revolution? Was it Napoleon who restocked the pond? Are they carp at all? Is that wink of a silvery fin in the mud some mere chub or perch? Are we looking at the wrong pond?

The same sort of ripples and refractions make it hard to get a clear sight of the outline of the European budget deal struck at Fontainebleau. How much of our own money are we going to get back? 66 per cent, or 54 per cent, or only 46 per cent? The possible calculations are endless. The head whirrs; just as you think you have mastered it, the waters muddy again.

But there is one quite simple point to hang on to, and that is the row is over. Even when the money runs out again in perhaps four or five years, it is unlikely to flare up again, at least not with nearly the same intensity. Now that the principle of a lasting solution has been enshrined in practice, it will be relatively easy to rewrite the terms (nothing in Community life is ever entirely easy).

I don't mean that the terms are brilliant now or even likely to be brilliant in a revised version. It is simply that the terms are settled. And it was because the terms were not settled that, even after 11 years inside the machinery of British government, has still not properly adjusted to membership. Non-settlement has been used as an excuse, even if an unconscious excuse, for refusing to learn the finer points of the game.

Whitehall has been positively apprehensive of orienting its activities towards Brussels. There exist, of course, the usual committees to prepare Britain's posture in EEC negotiations. But "posture" is the word. What matters most, as with the House of Commons, is to make sure that the minister does not make a fool of himself and, where more than one minister is involved, that they do not contradict one another.

The Community continues to be regarded as something "out there," a continental body which makes strange demands and, rather less often, showers modest windfalls upon us - here a bridge built, there a patch of wasteland reclaimed.

The contributions to Britain from the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund and the common agricultural policy are now counted in with British public expenditure, but they are counted as extras, *bonnes bouches*, which should not be allowed to influence the spending plans of British ministries. Again and again, you can read in this year's

Public Expenditure White Paper sentences like: "Receipts (from Brussels) enable public expenditure in this field to be higher than it otherwise would have been."

You or I might think that what we ought to be reading is: "Receipts from Brussels enable British public expenditure in this field to be lower than it otherwise would have been." But Whitehall departments resist any thought of deducting the EEC money from their own budgets, protesting: "We can't leave it to the Commission to spend the public money which we intend to spend, because they won't spend it with the sensitivity and expertise which we have at our fingertips."

Some senior civil servants have even argued that you cannot seriously expect them to push hard in Brussels for new European schemes if success would mean less largesse for them to distribute from their own ministries.

This is a bizarre conception of what they are paid for. But it has crippled Britain's efforts to shift EEC expenditure away from agricultural and towards some of the social and industrial causes that would benefit us.

In real life, all subsidies are extremely blunt instruments, uncertain of success and unpredictable in their side-effects; £200m for some joint aerospace project is just as dicey whether the money comes from London or Brussels; the only real difference is that, if Brussels is paying, the cost is more widely shared and the money helps to offset the outflows to continental farmers.

It is hard to think of a department which has really sunk its pride and begun to think European. I do not mean by this that they should spend all day thinking up wozzy and costly Euro-schemes. I mean that, when considering their own programmes, the first questions they should ask are: which bits of this can we persuade Brussels to fund? How can we reshape our own domestic systems to attract the maximum support available within the Treaty of Rome? Now and then, we do see signs of this reorienting, for example in the Government's proposals for the reform of regional policy, but departments still resent the hot breath of the Treasury down their necks demanding deductions.

Until departments do settle down to work the system effectively, we shall continue to pour money across the exchanges. All this may sound a rather British description of what it means to be *communitaire*, that quality which sounds so bland and chilling. But it does involve more than national self-interest. You have to trust the system a little more to squeeze the best out of it: like learning how to shop in a foreign market instead of passively reading the labels in the supermarket.

Anne Sofer

Keep parties off the grass roots

A new sub-culture is burgeoning at County Hall. In the lofty and hygienically white-tiled lavatories on the principal floor graffiti are beginning to cover the walls. Most is political rather than obscene. Examples (from a quick survey last Wednesday): "Thatcher Youth - Nazi Scum" and "NF Scum" are the Bosses Yes Men, Cowardly Scabs.

In some cases a protracted dialogue has developed over the weeks, with contributions in different handwriting and colours of magic pens. The best is: "Every six seconds an animal dies in a British laboratory. Stop the torture and the lies now." "How many children are killed in the same time? When we form a bond of common humanity many of our evils will be taken to dissolve." "No single issue politics please! This woman (arrow pointing to the quote above) has the right idea."

To the right of this is a rather desperate scrawl, "I only came in to pee!" And there, I thought, is the authentic voice of the people. Help, it seems to be saying, is there nowhere we can escape from politics?

Another counter-cultural phenomenon is joke candidates in parliamentary elections. The most elaborate joke I have yet heard of is the Fancy Dress Party, who put up a candidate against Bob Dunn, now junior minister in the Department of Education and Science. It published a manifesto with three principal planks: that there should be free cigarette advertisements on radio and television, that the local common should be turned into a rest home for retired pantomime horses and that all Kentish men should be given a license to rape and pillage in the Netherlands.

Supporters turned up at the count in fancy dress; one, got up as a can of beer, presented the police on duty with an embarrassing dilemma. When they wanted to search him for bombs, he countered that if they did so they would be guilty of gross indecency since he was wearing nothing else.

This silly story has cheered me on many a dark night, the more so because it was told me by Bob Dunn, with all of whose political views I profoundly disagree and who himself enjoyed it hugely. But the fact that this sort of clowning flourishes and that the attitudes it conveys are particularly popular among the young, who are increasingly not bothered to vote, are reminders of an important fact: that the public does not much like politicians, disapproves of the way they carry on, is bored by their preoccupations and is very glad of any opportunity to send them up.

I am sure that in part this is due to

the acrimonious style fostered by an outdated two-party system, but it goes deeper than that. Modern democracy is perceived to be a cheat; it promises "power to the people" but leaves them feeling powerless. The distance between the cross on the ballot paper and the return of any tangible good is too great.

But added to the insult of impotence is the injury of intrusive politicization. More and more of the nuts and bolts of people's lives - how their rubbish is collected or how their roof is repaired, even what they eat and how they treat the opposite sex - are becoming charged with political significance.

It has long been fundamental doctrine on the left that all life is political. One of my favourite moments at that entertaining body, the GLC arts, and recreation committee, was when a maquette of a new sculpture by Wendy Taylor, for which a grant was being sought, was being presented to us. It took the form of a giant knot. A doctrinally pure member of the Labour group looked vexed. "Art," he said, "has to have a political meaning, and I can see no political meaning in this." (I am sure that officers lining the walls with deadpan faces ran a competition afterwards for the most appropriate reply.)

It is part of the philosophy to label those who attack politicization of areas of particular life as mere defectors of the status quo - itself a political stance, and traditionally a Conservative one. It is not a stance, however, that Mrs Thatcher can be accused of taking. She may claim to want to get the state off people's backs, but has no qualms about drumming her political philosophy into their ears.

The tyranny of conviction politicians is that they assume that political conviction is the only sort going. But probably more people's lives and choices are governed by religious or moral convictions, even now, than purely political ones. (Political activists after all are a tiny minority.) An even larger group lead their lives in a considerable state of doubt and vacillation and changed perceptions - and not necessarily as a result of mental laziness.

A true democracy would give everyone more real power - whether they adhered to a party political position or not. That we do not yet know how to do this is apparent. But part of the answer must surely lie in pushing as many decisions as possible as far down as they will go; so low, in fact, that they slip out of the hands of the political parties altogether.

The author is SDP member of the GLC (ILEA) for St Pancras North.



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ON FROM THE FORUM

Dr Garret Fitzgerald's overtures to Ulster unionists in the form of an article in the *Belfast Telegraph* last week is an appropriate overture also for today's debate in the House of Commons on the report of the New Ireland Forum. The forum was to be a pan-Irish examination of ways of achieving peace and stability in a "new Ireland" by democratic processes. After the predictable refusal of the unionist parties in the North to have anything to do with it, the initiative took on the rather different purpose of reaching an agreed statement of the nationalist position in contemporary and placatory terms.

The political object of this was to impress opinion in London, Washington, Brussels and elsewhere with the reasonableness of the nationalists' case and humour, to sound more sweetly to any unionist ears that are not wholly deaf to the music of the republic, and incidentally to give the SDLP something to show for its honourable adherence to constitutional practices.

The report, got some of the way towards the objective. It displayed a comprehension of the unionist position quite new in republicanism. It repeated and emphasized official Dublin's repudiation of coercion as an instrument of unification. It promised Ulster unionists the moon, minus what matters most to most of them: unambiguous incorporation in the United Kingdom. It was open and non-prescriptive when it came to structures.

The effect was marred how-

ever by horse trading between the parties to the forum which left hoof marks on the text. The passages just mentioned were set in a retrospective framework of unreconstructed republicanism. The denunciation of a unitary Irish republic filling the whole island was given textual primacy, and within hours of publication Mr Haughey was on the screen claiming that this was the only hard conclusion of their labours. Unionists had some excuse for regarding the report as marking no essential change in the territorial ambition of their neighbours, and regarding anything that might come out of it as serving that ambition.

Dr Fitzgerald has been striving to undo the damage. In his *Belfast Telegraph* article he stresses the aspirational, conditional and optative phraseology with which the unitary state option was hoisted into prominence. He insists that the only actual proposals in the forum report are ten propositions, "elements of a framework", with most of which it would be difficult to disagree. He also points to several striking verbal similarities between the forum report and a statement issued about the same time by the Ulster Unionist party called "The Way Forward".

Yet unionists in contemplating their future have to watch not only Dr Fitzgerald, whose honourable intentions they should not doubt, but the whole body politic to the south of them. The largest organized element within it, the Fianna Fail party, has explicitly

dissociated itself from Dr Fitzgerald's revisionist views, rededicated itself to the cause of a unitary all-Ireland republic, and expelled from its parliamentary party Mr Desmond O'Malley, a modern-minded aspirant to leadership, because he differs and said so.

In their comments on the forum report British ministers should join Dr Fitzgerald in magnifying such common ground as there is between nationalists and unionists in Northern Ireland. The key to the forum's analysis is recognition that both communities in the province must be afforded means of expression for their identity and of its projection on to the public institutions that serve them both.

None of the options canvassed in the forum report could even begin to work in present circumstances. "Solutionism" is worse than useless. It has to be accepted at the outset that the matching of territory and allegiance in the island, imperfect as it is, has stood for sixty years and is there to stay. Inside that perimeter there is much to be done along the lines of the forum analysis to reconcile the nationalist community to the public institutions of Northern Ireland, to resuscitate the forms of democratic politics there, and to promote constructive collaboration between authorities north and south. Mr Prior, playing out time at the Northern Ireland Office, will do as much as can be done if he pegs away at that.

VACANCY AT THE LAURELS

Someone said of the laureate Alfred Austin that by no stretch of the imagination could his death be said to leave a gap in literature; but it did leave a gap in officialdom. Sir John Bejeman's death has left a gap in both. Now that the last obsequies are concluded (save only to admit his shade to a rightful place in Poets' Corner in the south transept of Westminster Abbey) it is time to consider the gap in officialdom.

There is no urgency about filling it. A pause would make it possible to see how opinion moves. But filled it ought to be. There is no merit in the suggestion that because the idea of an official poet is obsolete (true), or because there is no one of the stature of Bejeman to fill the post (untrue), or because a dual verse is an extinct doubtful, therefore the laureateship should lapse. The office has a long and curious history; it is malleable to suit the times; it is Power's compliment to adds to the gaiety of the nation, even when it goes wrong and even if only in retrospect enough to be going on with it.

When Oscar Wilde was asked his opinion in the long interval that elapsed before a successor to him was found he replied "I was already Poet Laureate of England. The fact that his appointment has not been degraded by official confirmation renders the position all the more unsatisfactory. He whom all poets love is the Laureate Poet always." (Gladstone acknowledged Swinburne's gifts but was advised that he was ostentatiously vicious and a self-proclaimed republican, so he was not appointed.)

On that lofty view Mr Philip Larkin already wears the laurels without the degradation of a gazetting. There is hardly room for doubt that he would be the poets' choice, and the poetry

readers' choice too. But his output is slender and apparently diminishing, and he is attuned to the medium of privacy. These characteristics do not respond easily to the laureate's obligation to perform every now and then for the royal, state or national occasions, in so far as the obligation still exists.

It scarcely does. The laureate is readily excused. Indeed the expectation may still exist only in the minds of selected newspaper editors and statisticians announced on the day of his appointment that he did not intend to write an ode about Britain's going into the Common Market, an event that was about to take place. No one, unless it may have been Mr Heath on whose advice, he had been appointed, thought the worse of him for that or grumbled that he was not earning his butt of sack.

In fact Bejeman had written long ago a model of occasional verse - his lines on the death of King George V - but it was not on the strength of that that he was chosen, and his manly efforts to coax the muse to descend for the royal marriages he encountered fell flat.

In spite of the leaden consequences of obligatory versification, and in of the indulgence which the poet laureate of any too painful attempt at it, there is something to be said for keeping alive the connexion of the laureateship with the production of occasional verses for public purposes. It is a valid poetic function even if it has fallen out of fashion. It also saves the laureateship from being just another honour in a full list.

For that you need someone with the necessary facility and appetite, as well as a stature sufficient to dignify the attempt. Mr Roy Fuller, Mr Ted Hughes and Mr Gavin Ewart are mentioned, and they would have

to be preferred to either of the dozens of letters, Sir Stephen Spender, who belongs in the imagination of others to the 1930s, and Mr Robert Graves, who is about to be ninety and lives in the Mediterranean.

Mr Ewart had a sparkling poem in last week's *Spectator* on the subject of filling the vacancy, mentioning all names except Ewart (which falsely rhymes with He could do it). In spite of his reticence it was a qualifying entry for the job since someone who can versify successfully for this occasion could surely take in his stride a royal embarkation for the Solomon Islands or England's plucky failures in the World Cup. But the appointment of Mr Ewart had better await the day when court poet and court jester are rolled into one.

Mr Larkin as it happens has a poem on a political theme, the retreat from empire, as mordant as anything of Siegfried Sassoon's. It has the ironical title "Homage to a Government". The sentiments would be appreciated retrospectively in Downing Street today, though emphatically not at the time (1969).

That poem's success suggests that a laureate would have to be freed from confinement to official sentiments when writing to public themes, if we are to look to him to lead a revival of public poetry. That would be a departure and a risk. The Court might be embarrassed. Questions would be asked in the House relating to the burden on the taxpayer of a stipend of £70 per annum paid to someone who shamelessly abuses his trust. Poetry would enter controversy for a reason other than its obscurity. That would be good for the art; and, without taking too literally Shelley's thing about the unacknowledged legislators of the world, it might be good for the commonwealth too.

The situation could only be met by stern and strong action.

A temple is an abode of God and a place of public worship. The Golden Temple is the holiest of the holy Sikh shrines. It has a large complex.

Unfortunately, instead of carrying on religious activities from this place, it was turned into an armory and a hide-out for criminals. This was done so that the law enforcement authorities could have no access to it.

The Sikh extremists could have operated from any other place, but they used the holiest of the holy places for their criminal activities.

The subsequent action taken by the Government of India was thus clearly invited by the extremists themselves. It is a matter of regret that those who are now shouting and demonstrating against the Government action did not choose to raise their voice against this desecration of their holy shrine.

It is equally unfortunate that a large and visible support should be given to them by the British. By all accounts, London has now become the headquarters of terrorist activities aimed against India.

Yours faithfully,
MURLIDHAR C. BHANDARE,
C-109
NDSE Part-II,
New Delhi-110049.
June 20.

Urgent need for shotgun curb

From Lord Harris of Greenwich
Sir, Mr David Powis, a Deputy Assistant Commissioner at Scotland Yard, is entirely right. As he told *The Times* on June 28, it is essential that we strengthen our controls over shotguns.

As Chairman of the Parole Board, I became increasingly concerned about the inadequacy of these controls. A chief officer of police can decline to issue a shotgun licence; but the grounds on which he can make that decision are limited.

Anyone can buy as much ammunition as he likes without even having to demonstrate that he possesses a shotgun certificate. One certificate enables a person to hold as many shotguns as he chooses and to do so without any obligation to keep them in safe custody.

With controls as slack as these it is hardly surprising that criminals find it so easy to acquire these weapons, or that, as Mr Powis said, they are now being used in two thirds of armed robberies.

I hope that this matter will receive urgent attention. At the same time it might be desirable to end the public subsidy being given to holders of shotgun licences. Despite clear Treasury guidelines on licence fees policy, those recovered in the last three years have fallen far short of the costs of administration of the existing shotgun licensing system.

Yours sincerely,
HARRIS
House of Lords,
June 28.

16-plus examination

From Sir Derman Christopherson
Sir, Mr David Gale's letter (June 25) draws attention to the plight of thousands of 12-15 year olds who will have completed their education before the new GCSE examination comes into effect in 1988. He, and the teachers and parents of these children, may be reassured to learn of the interim arrangements planned by at least one of the new examining boards.

At the beginning of next term, the Midland Examining Group (MEG) will be offering joint GCSE/CSE examinations in the major subjects of the curriculum. All candidates will be eligible for both O-level and CSE certificates on taking a single examination.

The syllabuses have been drawn up so as to conform with the national criteria upon which the new GCSE examination will be based: thus the transition to a single system planned for 1988 will be achieved with the minimum of disruption.

Further information about the syllabuses and examinations is available from the Secretary, University of Cambridge Local Examinations Syndicate, 1 Hills Road, Cambridge, or from any of the partner boards of MEG.

Yours faithfully,
DERMAN CHRISTOPHERSON,
Joint Chairman, Midland Examining Group,
Master's Lodge,
Magdalene College,
Cambridge,
June 27.

Authors and writers

From Mr John Christopher
Sir, Your publishing correspondent states (June 25), as a matter of fact, that a merger between the Society of Authors and the Writers Guild will take place "within the next year or two".

It would be interesting to know what evidence Mr Craddock has to support this confident prediction. Speaking as a fairly active member of the Society of Authors I know of none. Nor does it seem to me that such a merger is either likely or desirable.

There are similarities between the aims and functions of the two organizations, but also fundamental differences. One, of course, is represented by the Guild's affiliation to the TUC, which I believe they have recently reaffirmed. It is highly improbable that any committee of management of the Society of Authors would recommend such an affiliation to its members, and inconceivable that they would accept the recommendation if made.

There would be obvious advantages for the Guild in a merger, but if any, for the Society. The Guild was formed by certain highly professional writers who felt the Society did not adequately serve their interests. (A similar breakaway from the American Authors Guild, took place only a few months ago).

Unless they aspire to be the tail that wags the dog, I should think their motivation remains valid. It is possible, of course, that they think the Society has so reformed itself that the objection no longer holds. In that case individual applications to rejoin the Society would, I am sure, be viewed most sympathetically.

Yours truly,
JOHN CHRISTOPHER,
La Rochelle,
Rye, East Sussex.

Marble Hill at risk

From Mr Leslie Crowther and others
Sir, The Chairman of the Heath and Old Hampstead Society (June 21) highlights public concern regarding the future of London's historic houses and open spaces.

The Government's decision to abolish the Greater London Council raises questions over the future of an important part of London's heritage.

We are particularly anxious that Marble Hill House, one of the finest examples of Palladian architecture, and its idyllic setting within Marble Hill Park on the banks of the Thames should be fully safeguarded.

The Government's original plan, on the abolition of the GLC, was to hand over historic houses and parks to the borough councils. However

Saving a green and pleasant land

From Sir Ralph Verney

Sir, You have very nearly gone the whole hog in your comment on the strategy of the Nature Conservancy Council, but your throw-away line about a well-fought rearguard action (June 27) qualifies for me your leader's effectiveness.

Rayner, you rightly point out, has come and gone, the millions who care about conservation increase daily, the stewardship of the countryside by those who own and work in it is demonstrably more responsible and effective, and the losses of habitat and species which are listed in the report are disturbing but in few cases hitherto catastrophic.

In estuaries, moorland, wetlands, chalk grassland and broadleaved woodland habitats and species are under threat but not eliminated, and it is the primary purpose of the 1981 Wildlife Act that they should be voluntarily and responsibly conserved.

The crucial issue - and this is not a rearguard action but a vibrant and constructive crusade for the quality of life and of our society - is what commitment and how much tolerance in its application our affluent nation is prepared to devote to the strategy of conservation of renewable and non-renewable resources for a clean and beautiful environment for ourselves and our grandchildren.

Unlike most of your contemporaries and the whole of the radio and television network, you have reported the continuing dialogue between the conservation movement and the primary users of the countryside accurately and without bias or envy. Might it not now be a splendid gesture for *The Times* to convene and sponsor a nationwide seminar to explore and establish the scale and method of the support and encouragement, fiscal and monetary, which the nation wishes to give to the continuing stewardship of our countryside.

Yours truly,
RALPH VERNEY,
Clydon House,
Middle Chilton,
Buckingham.

From the Director of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds

Sir, How right you were in your leader "Looking after the land" (June 22) to point out that it is the incentives offered by government that create the pressures to maximise production at the expense of other values of land management. It is these same, now outdated, policies which are largely to blame for the destruction of wildlife habitats and are bringing farmers and conservationists into conflict.

The review of agricultural support now taking place presents a vital

Young maid's fancy

From Mr John Penman

Sir, Mr Alan Hamilton (report, June 20) needs to brush up his Homer. Nausicaa lived not in heaven but in her father's palace on Phaeacia. She was no goddess, though as tall and beautiful as one, but a delightfully down-to-earth young woman, not too grand to do the family washing.

Referring to Odysseus, she said: "That is the kind of man whom I could fancy for a husband, if he would settle here. I only hope that he will choose to stay" (Rieu's translation).

True, she and her maids played with a ball, but they threw it from one to another, which scarcely makes her a patron of lawn tennis. However, it is pleasant to learn that Mr McEnroe can sometimes, like Odysseus, enjoy a human encounter.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN PENMAN,
Fonsville,
Upper Chute,
Andover, Hampshire.

Graduates and jobs

From Mr David Stanton

Sir, In his letter (June 22) Mr Robert Porter criticised the publication *Graduates and Jobs* jointly produced by the Department of Education and Science.

Contrary to Mr Porter's claim, this guide does not claim that subject of study is "of overriding importance" for graduates when seeking work. Clearly for the individual graduate personal factors are important.

However, it is impossible to ignore the very marked differences in the early employment prospects of graduates in different subjects (with unemployment ranging from 0 to over 50 per cent) and between universities, polytechnics and colleges of higher education. These differences have persisted over recent years so that 1982 figures, the latest available, can be taken as representative.

Mr Porter notes that over 30 per cent of vacancies at degree level are open to any discipline but forgets that a considerably higher proportion of graduates are seeking such jobs. In some subjects, for

example, arts and non-economic social sciences, graduates are almost wholly dependent on employment which is not related to their degree subject.

The limited supply of such jobs (at least at graduate level) is a major reason for the differences in subject unemployment rates. *Graduates and Jobs* shows that these jobs are and which subjects are most dependent on them.

Similarly, and also contrary to Mr Porter's implication, the guide gives a full account of the training and study opportunities open to graduates. It shows that in subjects where employment prospects are poor, graduates are much more likely to seek further study or training with the precise activity depending on the degree subject.

I fully agree with Mr Porter's fears of "myths and rumours" about graduate employment; the purpose of this guide is to increase information about the labour market for graduates.

Yours sincerely,
DAVID STANTON, Director,
Employment Market Research Unit,
Department of Education,
Caxton House,
Tothill Street, SW1.

From Mr G. S. Lowth

Sir, My wife and I have just returned home from Libya where, for the past two years, we have been members of the congregation of the small Anglican church in Tripoli, which, with its temporarily unoccupied chaplain's flat, is accommodated in a converted villa.

On June 11 squatters broke into the building and claimed possession. In view of the poor press which Libya has recently received in this country, I am very happy to acknowledge the exemplary fairness and sympathy shown by both the police and housing authorities who, after three days of patient investigation, restored the building to us, with an assurance of their continuing support should such a situation recur in the future.

Yours faithfully,
G. S. LOWTH,
Ivy Cottage,
Weston-under-Penyard,
Ross-on-Wye, Herefordshire,
June 18.

Good relations in Libya

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Yours sincerely,
DAVID STANTON, Director,
Employment Market Research Unit,
Department of Education,
Caxton House,
Tothill Street, SW1.

It was the old London County Council, mindful of the need to provide open spaces for Londoners, which saved Marble Hill from the developers at the turn of the century and instituted its "lungs for Londoners" policy.

We believe that if and when the GLC is abolished some form of central body should continue to administer London's historic houses and open spaces so that our heritage will be fully protected.

Yours faithfully,
LESLIE CROWTHER,
JEREMY MAAS,
JOHN HALE,
JERRY FEARSON,
CAMILLA JESSE,
JILL FOUNDER-CORNER,
Friends of Marble Hill and Orleans,
20 Montpelier Row,
Twickenham,
Middlesex,
June 24.

Yours faithfully,
GRENVILLE JONES,
JEREMY MAAS,
JERRY FEARSON,
CAMILLA JESSE,
JILL FOUNDER-CORNER,
Friends of Marble Hill and Orleans,
20 Montpelier Row,
Twickenham,
Middlesex,
June 24.

Representation of the people

From Mr William Cash, MP (or Stafford (Conservative))

Sir, Mr Barnes (June 22) calls for a new Reform Bill. He suggests that: (1) Parliament does not represent the people; (2) that our laws are not respected; and (3) blames our first-past-the-post electoral system.

He implies that Parliament under the present system is not, or should not be, taken seriously. He makes grave allegations, to which proportional representation (PR) is no answer.

Parliament does represent the people of this country under the present first-past-the-post system. PR is not in any real sense a reforming measure and cannot be equated with the great Reform Bill. It is a prescription for continued policies, horse trading behind closed doors, an increase in the power of a few individuals and of bureaucracy.

Under PR individual electors would be no more directly represented by their MPs who are their representatives than under first-past-the-post. MPs will continue to vote as such in the House of Commons and PR would not change this.

Secondly, lack of respect for the law and for our institutions owe much to a sense of remoteness of people from local and central government. The volume and complexity of legislation is largely the product of modern bureaucracy. PR would be liable to increase the power of bureaucracy at the expense of Parliament. People will not respect what they do not understand and respect both for Parliament and for our laws suffers as a result.

Yours faithfully,
WILLIAM CASH,
House of Commons.

From Mr J. A. W. Ambler
Sir, What is happening to our country today is the bastion of freedom, the mother of Parliaments, the rule of the ballot box?

On the one hand, we have a Prime Minister and her colleagues trying to deprive Londoners and other members of metropolitan boroughs concerned of their right to vote locally, on the grounds of the result of a national ballot which resulted in giving her a massive majority in Parliament with little over 40 per cent of the popular vote - surely no mandate for major constitutional vote-depriving legislation.

On the other hand, we have a leader of a major union, also democratically elected, using his position similarly to deprive a considerable proportion of his members of their right to vote on the question of a national strike.

Finally, on a lighter but none the less relevant note, I heard recently on the radio one of her Majesty's ministers jokingly admitting to "bending the rules slightly" with regard to the case of Zola Budd.

With respect, I return to my original question.
Yours faithfully,
ANTHONY AMBLER,
10 Culford Mansions, SW3.

A voice in Europe

From Mr Claudio Borio

Sir, As a European citizen, Italian by accident and English by residence, I would like to point out that it seems only logical for a person in my position to have the right to vote in England and for an English MEP.

After all, a citizen of one country who changes his or her place of residence is entitled to vote in his or her new constituency. This principle should, to be consistent, be extended to the European Community as a whole, irrespective of national boundaries.

Yours faithfully,
CLAUDIO BORIO,
Brasenose College, Oxford.

Face-savers

From Mr Patrick Howarth

Sir, The Lord's Taverners, who recently played cricket on the Côte d'Azur (letter, June 21), should be regarded as revivers of a tradition rather than pioneers.

At one time there was a flourishing cricket club in Cannes. Its ground was next to an ostrich farm and the boundaries were rather short. Consequently it was quite a common occurrence for a group of cricketers, armed with stumps and bats, to organise a miniature ostrich hunt in order to prize the ball from the bird's beak.

This they seem to have done with skill and intercity, for, so far as I am aware, there were no recorded instances of "ostriches stopped play".

Yours faithfully,
PATRICK HOWARTH,
Villa Lucior,
Rue du Dr Bertrand Lépine,
06400 Cannes, France.

Upon the waters

From Commander R. J. Bassett, RAN (ret)

Sir, My experience of the feeding habits of birds is different to those seen in St James's Park by Lieutenant-Colonel Moody (June 28).

In this part of Shropshire our garden birds, including wood pigeons, rooks, jackdaws, crows and doves, obstinately refuse to eat the best stone-ground oven-baked bread and prefer instead the steam-processed white blotting paper.

Does this reflect the cultural divide which the pundits declare to exist between the south and the rest of the country, or does it indicate a cynical attitude by the bird community to the off-changing advice given by the health food industry?

Yours faithfully,
R. J. BASSETT,
The Cottage,
Albrighton,
Wolverhampton, Shropshire.

THE ARTS

PUBLISHING

Running stories

The heads of most British publishing companies run their houses as if, at best, they are benevolent dictators; at worst, despots. This is especially the case with those who have founded or inherited the imprints that bear their names. They profess to admire creative colleagues with minds of their own but in practice find it easier to work with competent time-servers. In the last few weeks, two of the most respected and liked editorial directors of medium-sized "literary" houses, Mike Petty of Corgi & Windus and Dieter Pevsner of Deutsch, have been given their marching orders. Publishing is hardly an occupation for gentlemen these days.

On the other hand Ian Chapman of William Collins has, since becoming chairman and chief executive a few years ago, run his vast house less as a Renaissance princeling than as a prime minister. Turnover last year at £105.1m was 31.9 per cent up on 1982, and profits before taxation 81.8 per cent up on the previous year. In spite of these more than satisfactory results, he has just engineered what must be the biggest and most significant change-around of jobs ever undertaken in a major British publishing house.

Christopher MacLehose, who was editorial director, has gone to run Collins's off-shoot Harvill Press, which will probably become a much more general imprint. Adrian House, previously Harvill's publisher, is going to look after natural history and ornithological books. Carol O'Brien, who was Harvill's editorial director, will be doing a similar job in the larger pond of Collins with, as fellow editorial directors (and here is where Mr Chapman's divide-and-rule appointments are so skilful), Robin Baird-Smith and Marjory Chapman, wife of the chairman.

Roger Schlesinger had come over to Collins shortly after he bought Lord Bernstein's publishing house, Granada, last year and was on his way to run Elm Tree (the show business and down-market imprint of Hamish Hamilton) until Ian Chapman overtook Granada's chairman, Alewyn Birch, and insisted that Mr Schlesinger stay. Now he has been rewarded for his loyalty by being put in overall charge of Collins's general publishing.

Other senior Granada personnel are being shifted around, with the previous managing director of the paperback division, Terry Kitson, coming out on top and his hardback colleague, Mark Barty-King, expected to take over. Collins was founded in 1819. Mr Chapman is the first chairman and chief executive who is not a member of the founding family. He has instituted a radical change in the way British publishing bosses see their responsibilities. Not only are jobs for the boys and girls out, at least in Grafton Street, but those who are most competent as managers have been promoted. Much, clearly, is expected of them. Ian Chapman has never seen why a publishing company should not be run as efficiently as any other business, and this is his move to achieve just that.

It might be thought that a handsome publication of half the typescript of George Orwell's 1984 with the author's many handwritten corrections - half, because the rest is lost - would, even this year, find relatively few buyers, and that impoverished students of Eng Lit. It would appear not so, as Tom Rosenzweig of Secker & Warburg is printing 15,000 copies. The British edition is published today at £25.00.

The witness of booksellers seems to know no end. Mr R. K. Brown, of the Hampshire branch of the Booksellers' Association, has written to *The Bookseller* to complain that Hodder & Stoughton should not really have allowed the *Maid on Sunday* to print not just extracts from Jeffrey Archer's forthcoming novel, *First Among Equals*, but the entire book over three issues of the newspaper. If this happens again, warns Mr Brown, and Hampshire booksellers are not told when subscribing to new titles ahead of publication, any subsequent unsold books will be returned to their publishers at the publisher's expense.

Two comments need to be made. First, any publicity or exposure that results in books, individually or collectively, being put across in a better way to the public has to be a good thing. Secondly, do booksellers seriously believe that those who usually buy Mr Archer's books in hardback are, this time round, going to buy three successive issues of a Sunday newspaper instead?

Those who read books like to read them as books. If those who do not are able, once in a lifetime, to read what will inevitably be a huge best-seller complete in a newspaper, are Hampshire booksellers unable to see that some of those readers just might venture into a bookshop and buy... a book?

E. J. Craddock

Theatre festival: Irving Wardle in Nancy

Withering wartime fables

Back in the 1960s the fiery young Jack Lang launched the Festival Mondial at Nancy as a radical and decentralised challenge to the UNESCO-backed *Théâtre des Nations*, which served mainly to exchange officially approved productions between one capital and another.

Time brings its revenges. Mr Lang is now the French Minister of Culture, and he has approved a marriage between the two. In the resultant compromise, the present festival conforms to the *Théâtre des Nations* rule of excluding all work from the host country, but Lang's decentralist policy has, for the first time, thrust the event out into the provinces - split between Nancy and two neighbouring towns, much to the inconvenience of anyone arriving without a car only to find that the most attractive events are playing in Épinal or Metz.

The programme, too, marks a departure from the past. Instead of the usual parade of star directors and big State-supported companies, inflicting experimental outrages on *Brecht* and *Chekhov*, there is hardly a familiar name to be seen. According to the festival's Yugoslav director, Mira Trilovic, there is no point in recovering old ground at the expense of unknown artists who are about to achieve the "notoriety of those who went on to win everybody's respect".

From Mali and Russia to India and Libya, she has cast her net as wide as Jack Lang ever did, and her programme includes some startling examples of cultural cross-fertilization, such as a Korean version of Lorca's *Blood Wedding* and an Alaskan *Anigloo* played in the Eskimo language.

Of the shows I saw, however, the most striking was a Croatian Faust from Mme Trilovic's native Belgrade. Suggested by Klaus Mann's *Mephisto*, Slobodan Snajder's play is based on a wartime episode in Yugoslav theatre and tells a parallel fable on collaborationist art. Its hero, Vjekoslav, was a leading actor who played Goethe's Faust at the insistence of the troupe to join Tito's partisans. So much for history. What appears in Slobodan Snajder's production is a complex study of German influence on an already divided country. The setting is Zagreb, in Croatia, and besides their motives of fear and ambition, the collaborationists are also looking to the Nazis to guarantee their independence from the Serbs.

The expected events all take place. The theatre's director (the magnificently paternal Stojan Decermic) is replaced by a quivering critic, who divides the company so as to weed out the Serbs and Jews. The theatre's conscience goes over to the Nazis and the company derisively crown him King of the Croats with a cooking pot and a wooden spoon. Africa deserts, and the new director takes over his role. Simultaneously the various forms of temptation are merged into the recurring scenes from Goethe, with startling reversals of sympathy and transformations of play-acting and reality. Mephisto, for instance, quails in terror when Faust flings open his cloak revealing a swastika in place of the Christian cross.

As for Vladić Milosavljević's *Mephisto*, there is at first a stark disparity between the star-seducing actress and Goethe's demure heroine; then she, too, falls victim to the new regime and tragedy invades actuality with her torture and the killing of her newborn child.

Played on a neutral black floor with an upstage false proscenium, the production stealthily obliterates the division between the two areas, so that the arrival of macabre Gestapo agents may be fantasy and

the stagey entrance of Mephisto on the platform to put a rope round his neck becomes the literal truth. The piece ends with the return of Africa (Predrag Manojlovic) to the ruined city, a battered, exhausted wreck of the former theatrical dandy, ravenously devouring a crust and spitting out the one word "impossible" when a Russian soldier suggests that he might like to play Faust again, or perhaps something by a Soviet author.

Simultaneous French translation did not illuminate all the recesses of this deeply nationalist production, but its passion and stylistic assurance clearly project a company of international rank.

Italy supplied a companion piece in the form of Gianni Volpi's *Accademia Arcadiana*, another excursion into Nazi history based on the drama school which Lily Ackermann set up under Goebbels's patronage in 1938. The piece consists of an end-of-term show by her students for a ministerial examiner, and dramatizes the policy of recruiting art into military service.

Giancarlo Sepe's production states its method in an opening scene showing the solitary Lily (Vittoria Zucchi) alone in a wheelchair, and briefly regaining the use of her limbs to whirl round a dance floor before collapsing again into paralyzed immobility. This establishes the alternative options of dream and actuality, which the *Comunita Teatrale* company fully exploits.

Under Lily's direction, signalling her orders with clicking brakes, the students perform every task from sweeping the stage to presenting bouquets, as parade-ground drill. At the arrival of the Minister, even Lily struggles out of her chair and stands to attention with a rigid grimace of welcome. There is not a spontaneous

gesture or expression to be seen among the company of militarist robots.

All the greater is the effect when they embark on the succession of propaganda sketches to which the curriculum has debased the art of acting. Weimar decadence is shown through a mechanical waltz interspersed with machine-gun like bursts of laughter. Homosexuality is enacted in a sketch which the Minister interrupts when it starts becoming too lifelike. A metal rampart, surmounted with a monster's head, is trundled on, offering alluring glimpses of female flesh through its various doors. Enter a little girl with her doll which is promptly snatched by a prowling fascist while the girl herself is raped by a Weimar sex-beast. However, at the howls of her distracted mother, a Nazi Siegfried speeds to the scene

evening at Vauxhall. It was doubtless arranged by that astute manager Jonathan Tyers, who later took the sanctification of his hero to even greater heights, paying Rouillac £300 for the famous marble statue of the composer which graced the Gardens.

The quality of Handel's small English songs, as performed here by Charles Metcalfe and Sally Bradshaw, is indeed so slight that one could imagine the essential truth of the quip attributed to the composer in answer to someone who complained about the music at Vauxhall: "It is indeed poor stuff, sir; I thought so when I wrote it".

For musical substance, however, one had to turn to the Italian cantatas which ended each half: sprightly, inventive pieces, especially the second, in praise of Saint Cecilia. It ended with a lilting duet which Metcalfe and Bradshaw captured nicely; elsewhere, some of the more virtuosic passage-work escaped him, and some of the longer, subtler turns of phrase eluded her, though the singing of both was always lively and direct.

Nicholas McGegan presided unobtrusively at the harpsichord, aided by Jane Ryan's reliable continuo bass, and there were two enjoyable trio sonatas. Elizabeth Wallfisch had some difficulty with tuning in the concert's first half but in the second her distinctively free, rhapsodic playing gave a potent rising shape to the phrases of the G minor Sonata, which Catherine Weiss matched precisely.

At least one expects rather less of Alexander Mosolov and Sergey Protopopov. Mosolov was justly represented by one of his piano sonatas, the fourth, typical in its beguiling mixture of naive charm and brutal machine-style swamping. Tony Hymas gave a suitably innocent performance, and then accompanied Jane Manning in two elongated songs by Protopopov: the one a comic scene on the lines of "He loves me, he loves me not", the other a Pushkin dirge of ecstasy and desolation in love. Both were essentially very simple pieces which the composer had felt the need to complicate with constructivist awkwardness ("Daisies", the comedy) or else grossly extend ("The Song of Love").

Miss Manning, who was in excellent voice, was much better served by her composers when she turned to two moderns, Edison Decermic and Bradshaw, both represented by short cycles on poems by Mandelstam taken from his first volume, *Stone*. The poems demand an andante of rapt meditation, but within that style Denissov and Firsova both find imaginative, sensitive and responsible ways of handling the verse. I liked particularly the delicately accompanied recitative of Denissov's first two songs, with their icy trills and hushed chords, as well as the suggestion of a wobbly harpsichord toccata playing quietly over the last of the four. There was something a little more robust, a little more melodic, in the three songs set by Firsova, though still without injury to the poetry.

High-quality horns were also on display at Ronnie Scott's, where Henry Lowther's fluid trumpet and Derek Wadsworth's subtle trombone stood out in the attractive setting of a 10-piece band led by Terry Jenkins, a drummer whose light is usually well hidden under the bushel of the James Last Orchestra. Jenkins's playing, indeed, provided the first of several pleasant surprises in its deftness, in the glowing timbres drawn from cymbals and drums, and in the three-dimensional quality of its swing. It reminded me of Kenny Clarke. A set of compact mainstream-modern arrangements by such stalwarts as Harry South and Allan Ganley provoked a mood of mellow well-being, the music from which his inspiration flows. "Love on the Wrong Side of Town" and a fine recent song called "New Romeo" were among the remaining highlights of a set also notable for the precision and enthusiasm of the

Asbury Jukes' three-man horn section, as effective as any of their kind that I have heard - particularly the trumpeter, whose powerful leads gave way on one occasion to a delightfully imaginative cup-muted solo.

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Richard Williams

Richard Williams



Magnificently paternal: Stojan Decermic as the director in Croatian Faust

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and dishes out exemplary justice all round.

The effect is at once horrific and grotesquely funny, and the academy caps it with an appropriate finale. This is a "Shakespearean" treatment of the death of Hindenburg, played in a miniature Globe to pipe and labor accompaniment, and showing Hitler arising - like a combination of Richard III and Richmond - to liquidate his court and strangle his queen. (At this stage Lily's fantasy is overtaken by nightmare.) One point of interest in this show is to see German behaviour filtered through memories of Italian fascism. The result is doubtless vastly more glamorous than the original, but theatrically, backed with Stefano Marcucci's pastiche Orff accompaniments, it exerts its own brutal spell.

A final pair of East European productions illustrate the opposite

extremes of the selection policy. Janusz Wisniewski's *Panopticon* at La Madama Tussaud, from the Teatr Nowy of Poznan, is a flashily accomplished assembly of well-worn grotesque images proclaiming wholesale destruction in the form of a macabre cabaret. It seems very much the work of a young director hell-bent on the route from notoriety to eminence. Far more sympathetic is Bulgaria's modest contribution. The *Roman Baths*: a beautifully worked-out comedy by Stanislav Stratiev on the fate of a luckless Sofia resident when Roman remains come to light under his floorboards. You can imagine the collision of interests this arouses among local archaeologists, black marketers and Party officials. Less predictable, from this theatrical source, is the transformation of social problems into laughter. English-language translators please note.

Television

Facing a musical lynch-mob

In a world in which conductors have become "superstars", last night's *Omnibus* (BBC 1) offered what must be the musical equivalent of *Sunset Boulevard*, in which fame and power are tasted only to turn to dust in the mouth. *Goodnight Vienna* concerned the sad fate of Loria Mazalet; he had been appointed artistic director of the Vienna State Opera, which is rather like being appointed sacrificial goat to a large snake-pit - "pure suicide" was the way one musicologist described the post, and so it proved. Between January and March of this year, when *Omnibus* were filming Mazalet, he was made ostentatiously unwelcome and retired prematurely from his job: the enthusiasm had turned to bitterness, and he had developed panda-like rings around his eyes.

Mazalet is a "high-flyer", ambitious, determined, driving himself ever onward and

upward until he met his Waterloo in Vienna, where not even his childhood reading of Tom Paine or his self-confessed Buddhism could save him. He was, unfortunately, surrounded by Viennese who do not understand such things and seem generally to behave like a musical lynch-mob. Perhaps they have nothing else to do. He was abused in the press, booed in the Opera House and generally put through the mangle which more enlightened countries reserve for politicians or trade union leaders.

It might seem that here were all the makings of great tragedy - power, prestige and income all snatched away in a matter of months - but in fact the effect was closer to comedy; this was certainly the attitude embodied in the television script, which was itself a form of *opera buffa*. The comedy springs, I suspect, from the fact that both praise and blame (let alone the money)

are magnified out of all proportion; there were more "maestros" than in a Ford factory, and everyone concerned behaved with such a mixture of self-importance and hysteria that the rest of the world can only react with laughter.

After this Gothic horror, *Glyndebourne: A Celebration of Fifty Years* (BBC 2) was a benign and almost pastoral interlude, in which all those who participated made a point of congratulating each other in false terms. But it would be absurd to quibble about the celebratory tone of a programme which described itself as a "celebration"; certainly this small opera-house, with its familial tradition, has demonstrated that dedication and professionalism are not solely the prerogatives of maniacs.

Peter Ackroyd



Stevie Wonder: notable sophistication

Stevie Wonder

Earls Court

Perhaps one day Stevie Wonder will recognize that inviting a British audience to sing along with him does not evoke the kind of ready response with which the same tactic is presumably welcomed in Detroit or Atlanta; his music is loved by Britons, but *en masse* they cannot be expected to unbuckle themselves - never mind get the hang of the syncretized handclap patterns which he patiently tried to teach to a few thousand of us at the weekend.

Perhaps not, though. Wonder is a musician of notable sophistication, but to cut him off from interaction with his audience - even when it is unsuccessful - would probably be tantamount to denying him oxygen. For all the subtlety of his compositional talent and instrumental technique at the roots of it is Wonder's Afro-American birthright: a culture in which the division between musician and listener is much less clearly defined, in which the preacher and his congregation interact with the intention of

becoming a single indivisible organism.

Wonder's attempts to rouse the audience into something more than passive enjoyment led to flat spots in the two-hour concert, but they may also have served a perhaps unintentional secondary purpose as periods of relaxation between the bursts of intensity created by the way he grouped his repertoire.

Such perceptive artists as Bob Dylan, Bruce Springsteen and the late Marvin Gaye have realized that the old-fashioned method of organizing a concert - fast song, slow song, fast song, et cetera - is less interesting than a sequence which groups songs according to their similarities rather than their differences.

Thus Wonder went to the piano to give us his ballads: "All in Love is Fair", "Lately", and "Ribbons in the Sky" (the last lit up by Ben Bridges's exquisite acoustic guitar solo and by Wonder's own characteristically fluent harmonica improvisation). He put together what might be called his protest songs, in various shades: the spiritual resolve of "Higher Ground", the political anger of "You Haven't Done Nothing" and the social documentary of

music was and is primarily an accompaniment to fun.

Despite healthy assistance from Springsteen and Steve Van Zandt, who have given him songs and produced his records, Southside has never quite become a star; one imagines that it would now take something like the opportunity offered to Joe Cocker by the theme tune of *An Officer and a Gentleman* to lift him up where he belongs. In London last week, however, he proved conclusively that the components of his big-band soul music still fit and function as tightly and reliably as ever.

"The Fever", Springsteen's classic blues-ballad, and Van Zandt's Drifters-style "I Don't Want to Go Home" sounded fast and fulfilling; the driving 4/4 of "Talk to Me" was prefaced by playful sketches of "Up on the Roof", "Spanish Harlem" and "You Better Move On", together defining the Broadway black pop of the early 1950s from which his inspiration flows. "Love on the Wrong Side of Town" and a fine recent song called "New Romeo" were among the remaining highlights of a set also notable for the precision and enthusiasm of the

Rock/Jazz

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"Living for the City". The upbeat dance music of "Sir Duke", "I Wish" and the excellent new "Go Home" became a suite, as did - contrary to expectation - the historiography of "Uptight". For Once in My Life", "My Charlie Amour" and "Signed, Sealed, Delivered", each of which was brilliantly rendered by his superb 12-piece band.

Richard Williams

Asbury Jukes' three-man horn section, as effective as any of their kind that I have heard - particularly the trumpeter, whose powerful leads gave way on one occasion to a delightfully imaginative cup-muted solo.

High-quality horns were also on display at Ronnie Scott's, where Henry Lowther's fluid trumpet and Derek Wadsworth's subtle trombone stood out in the attractive setting of a 10-piece band led by Terry Jenkins, a drummer whose light is usually well hidden under the bushel of the James Last Orchestra. Jenkins's playing, indeed, provided the first of several pleasant surprises in its deftness, in the glowing timbres drawn from cymbals and drums, and in the three-dimensional quality of its swing. It reminded me of Kenny Clarke. A set of compact mainstream-modern arrangements by such stalwarts as Harry South and Allan Ganley provoked a mood of mellow well-being, the music from which his inspiration flows. "Love on the Wrong Side of Town" and a fine recent song called "New Romeo" were among the remaining highlights of a set also notable for the precision and enthusiasm of the

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Music and Revolution

Almeida

Music and Revolution is not as dangerous as it sounds. It is, rather, a loose collection of performers formed a couple of years ago to present two memorable concerts in connection with the Mayakovsky exhibition at the Riverside Studios. On Friday they reappeared to take part in the Almeida Festival, again with a programme almost entirely of unknown music, though this time with less emphasis on the post-Serbian mystics and red guards than on their contemporary successors.

The earlier music was also more feeble. From Shostakovich we heard his innocuous First Piano Trio, a single-movement piece in a straightforward sandwich form of dreamy lyrical music around something more agitated. Occasional bitter tastes of the authentic Shostakovich were swamped in a glutinous sauce of Tchaikovsky and Borodin: one would not have been surprised to learn that the piece was by somebody like Glazunov.

At least one expects rather less of Alexander Mosolov and Sergey Protopopov. Mosolov was justly represented by one of his piano sonatas, the fourth, typical in its beguiling mixture of naive charm and brutal machine-style swamping. Tony Hymas gave a suitably innocent performance, and then accompanied Jane Manning in two elongated songs by Protopopov: the one a comic scene on the lines of "He loves me, he loves me not", the other a Pushkin dirge of ecstasy and desolation in love. Both were essentially very simple pieces which the composer had felt the need to complicate with constructivist awkwardness ("Daisies", the comedy) or else grossly extend ("The Song of Love").

Miss Manning, who was in excellent voice, was much better served by her composers when she turned to two moderns, Edison Decermic and Bradshaw, both represented by short cycles on poems by Mandelstam taken from his first volume, *Stone*. The poems demand an andante of rapt meditation, but within that style Denissov and Firsova both find imaginative, sensitive and responsible ways of handling the verse. I liked particularly the delicately accompanied recitative of Denissov's first two songs, with their icy trills and hushed chords, as well as the suggestion of a wobbly harpsichord toccata playing quietly over the last of the four. There was something a little more robust, a little more melodic, in the three songs set by Firsova, though still without injury to the poetry.

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Concerts

Nicholas Kenyon

evening at Vauxhall. It was doubtless arranged by that astute manager Jonathan Tyers, who later took the sanctification of his hero to even greater heights, paying Rouillac £300 for the famous marble statue of the composer which graced the Gardens.

The quality of Handel's small English songs, as performed here by Charles Metcalfe and Sally Bradshaw, is indeed so slight that one could imagine the essential truth of the quip attributed to the composer in answer to someone who complained about the music at Vauxhall: "It is indeed poor stuff, sir; I thought so when I wrote it".

For musical substance, however, one had to turn to the Italian cantatas which ended each half: sprightly, inventive pieces, especially the second, in praise of Saint Cecilia. It ended with a lilting duet which Metcalfe and Bradshaw captured nicely; elsewhere, some of the more virtuosic passage-work escaped him, and some of the longer, subtler turns of phrase eluded her, though the singing of both was always lively and direct.

Nicholas McGegan presided unobtrusively at the harpsichord, aided by Jane Ryan's reliable continuo bass, and there were two enjoyable trio sonatas. Elizabeth Wallfisch had some difficulty with tuning in the concert's first half but in the second her distinctively free, rhapsodic playing gave a potent rising shape to the phrases of the G minor Sonata, which Catherine Weiss matched precisely.

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FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

Why bankers are turning to their medicine chests

The Argentine debt saga is turning into an endurance contest between bankers' ingenuity in New York and economic illusion in Buenos Aires. As the creditors reshuffle their way around successive deadlines like last Saturday's, advancing the minimum on new money for the maximum of old interest due, they are living in the hope that Argentina is close to a realistic understanding with the International Monetary Fund.

But there are those whose patience has nearly been exhausted, and who reckon the Argentine will burst. The sound can now be detected of central bankers searching quietly through their medicine chests.

There is, of course, another reason for this. No sooner had the Latin American summit at Cartagena passed off peacefully, than American interest rates rose again, making a total of three points on prime this past year, or two in just a few months. If by September (the time of the annual meetings of all member governments of the IMF and the World Bank), Argentina has still not come to terms, and if American interest rates are still pressing upwards, the debtors' cartel so carefully avoided by Brazil and Mexico at Cartagena is likely to take dangerous shape.

Increased risk

High American interest rates increase the risk of debt repudiation by one awkward customer, and default (ie, failure to comply with the terms of their loans) by several of its neighbours. By September, the third phase of managing our way out of the international debt crisis should be under way, with discussions with Brazil or Mexico on the rescheduling of several years' debt at a time. This is a terrifyingly large task in itself, placing political strain on the borrowers, organizational strain on the hundreds of banks involved and a worrying burden on the IMF.

If, instead, the debtors are by September attempting to set their own terms, rejecting the IMF and dividing their creditors, the international banking system will begin to feel the real pressures of fear - and it is against this eventuality that central bankers have now to be prepared.

We have, of course, already seen evidence of preparation in the rescue of Continental Illinois. Such actions are never costless, and the argument about a succession of such rescues is whether they would prove inflationary. It is generally agreed this need not be so, because the extra reserves provided at one weak point in the system can be drained away from the rest.

This is comforting, though perhaps a little ingenious - once a forest fire becomes general, it is not easy to direct the hoses with precision. A more important point, however, is that such liquidity crises do not go to the heart of the problem.

The real worry is about the banks' capital structure: whether, or when, they reach the point at which liabilities exceed assets, and unpleasant words like insolvency begin to be applied. Several big banks in the US and Britain would be in this position if their Latin American debts were assumed to be worthless.

Clearly they are not worthless: rescheduling, even on generous terms, does not reduce the value of a debt from 100 per cent to zero. But there are two big worries. One is that rescheduling will be brought to a halt by Argentine intransigence and American interest rates; the other is that no sensitive method can be found of writing these huge debts down to more realistic values.

There is certainly no shortage of schemes on offer. Without counting those Latin American ideas for letting borrowers off the hook which were fortunately suppressed at Cartagena, some 60 or so variants on a small number of themes are circulating in the world's central banks. One set concentrates on oiling the wheels of rescheduling by removing some of the debtors' uncertainties, most notably by setting a limit on the interest rates they are obliged to pay.

This would neutralize the effects of American policy; it could be quickly introduced on the pattern of the IMF's special scheme for compensating developing countries for unexpected falls in commodity earnings; it has, indeed, quite considerable support. But it imposes real

selection difficulties (how could it be confined to Latin America? What about the luckless East Europeans, who have coped with their debt problems without special help? And, unless the US Treasury were to pick up the bill, it would leave rest of the industrial world paying twice over for unbalanced American policies).

There is another big objection. Interest rate subsidies would do nothing to force the banks to adjust to the consequences of what were, after all, their own lending decisions. Of course, developing countries were free to refuse the money (as India, strikingly, decided to do). But bankers' cries for help would sound less hollow if they had done more to cope with their own doubtful debts.

For to be fair to both Western governments and debtor nations, they have both already borne some burden of readjustment. In 1983, according to new Bank of England figures, developing countries cut their deficits on the current account of the balance of payments by \$26 billion (£19.27 billion). And they received \$24 billion, directly or indirectly, from other governments (not all, it should be pointed out, at concessionary rate).

There remained a gap of about \$16 billion, of which one third was filled by direct investment capital - leaving only a modest financing burden to the banks. Of course, this overall picture does not fit every profligate government. Nor does it mean that Western governments should leave the banks to sink or swim.

There is too much real danger that a series of bank collapses would deflate the world economy, at a time when growth is anyway expected to slow down, and unemployment (in Europe, at least) has been rising for a decade. What it does mean is that plans should be concentrated on the need to achieve orderly adjustment by the banks and shareholders to the poor quality of many of their assets.

If the whole load of dubious Latin American debt were to be suddenly dumped on an open market, too many banks would go bust before the price stabilized at a sensible level. The trick, therefore, is to try and find a middle way between bank insolvency and the continued pretence that all these debts are as safe as houses - to allow, if you like, the embryonic secondary market in debt to develop without destroying today's banking system.

Of the variety of schemes on offer, only a proportion are addressed to this problem. Some others are addressed to the longer-term need: progress from debt management to a better system of international lending, or to a shift from direct lending to equity investment. Many of these are admirable and if we are lucky are all that is necessary; but they are largely beside the immediate danger points.

Conflicting criteria

Most of the schemes directed to the present looming emergency are designed to allow banks to discount their Latin American debts with either their own central banks or (less probably) with a new international institution. They need to be measured against two simple, but unfortunately conflicting, criteria.

First, do they impose a realistic penalty on the banks? And, second, do they allow a continued flow of lending, not merely to Latin America but to domestic industries? (This is not, incidentally, rich-world selfishness; the developing countries are heavily dependent on growth in the industrial world).

There is, of course, a third criterion: the cost to Western governments and their taxpayers. Unfortunately, inaction may also impose costs on taxpayers, through renewed inflation, or deflation, or possibly both.

But there is one spectacle of the free lunch they should not be obliged to watch, which is of a continued flow of dividends to bank shareholders. At present this is justified on the grounds that it will otherwise be impossible to raise the new capital the banks so obviously need. If, or when their governments are obliged to step in, that excuse will no longer do.

Sarah Hogg
Economics Editor

Extended pit strike 'could put trade figures £1.5bn in red'

By Christopher Dunn

A grim warning of the possible impact of the miners' strike on the economy, if the dispute drags on to the end of the year, has been given by James Capel, the London stockbroker.

The warning forms part of a chorus of concern in weekend brokers' circulars, and coincides with news that business failures in England and Wales are still at record levels, with the biggest number of casualties in London and the South.

Growth of gdp, on the expenditure measure, could grind to a halt, if the strike lasts to the end of the year, according to James Capel. The balance of payments would move into deficit by around £1.5 billion and possibly put more pressure on sterling.

Capel's chief economist, Mr Keith Jones, claims that inflation gains over the last four years might also be at risk, writing in the firm's monthly *UK Economic Assessment*.

"If sterling were to remain at \$1.35 over this period, this would raise the inflation rate to 6½ per cent by the end of 1984,

compared to our current projection of 5½ per cent", he writes.

"Furthermore, if a sustained miners' strike were accompanied by a general resurgence in union militancy and increased wage demands, it could push inflation closer to 7½ per cent."

Even if the strike is settled by the end of the third quarter, as miners drift steadily back to work, Britain's growth rate should fall to 2½ per cent from

the James Capel estimate of 3 per cent, with the balance of payments moving into the red by around £250m.

But some of the output lost in 1984 could be recouped in 1985, and the firm has accordingly raised its growth forecast for next year to 2.3 per cent.

Mr Gavyn Davies, chief economist for the broker Simon & Coates, also forecasts an end to the strike during the third quarter. He estimates that gdp

will fall by 1 per cent and earnings by 0.7 per cent, but sees consumer expenditure barely affected, dropping just 0.45 per cent, as miners dip into savings.

His projected balance-of-trade deterioration, up to the end of the third quarter, is about £550m, and the cost to the Exchequer £845m.

Mr Stephen Lewis at Phillips and Drew calculates that even if the coal strike ends in July, its aggregate cost might absorb the whole of the £2.75 billion allotted to the Contingency Reserve on Budget Day.

Total company liquidations in England and Wales in the first six months of 1984 rose by 10.8 per cent to 7,089, compared with the first six months of 1983. But failures were 17 per cent up on the second half of last year.

TRADE MINISTERS from the United States, Japan, Canada and the European Community have resolved that tariff cuts decided under the Tokyo round of trade talks of the 1970s should be accelerated.

Mixed views on recovery

Britain's company directors are reporting increasing performance and volume trends and high levels of optimism, but are seriously worried about prospects for Britain's economy as a whole.

Optimism about the economy has slumped dramatically over the last four months, according to the bi-monthly Business Opinion Survey, published by the Institute of Directors.

Mr Walter Goldsmith, in his latest public statement as

Director General (Sir John Hoskyns took over yesterday said: "There is a clear message to the Government in these results." "The Government should do all in its power to curb public spending and to provide over a steady long-term fall in the rate of inflation and the consequent fall in interest rates."

A third of companies questioned said they had been influenced to reduce (or not increase) workforces by employment protection laws.

Strong growth at Prudential

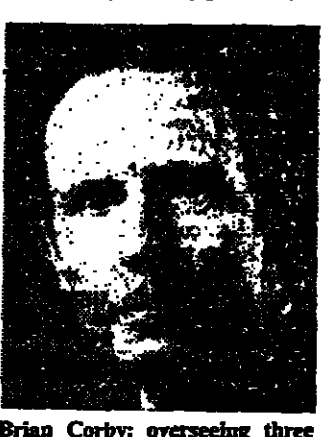
By Our City Staff

Britain's largest life assurance group, the Prudential Corporation, reports strong growth in its world single premium business for the first six months of 1984 and paints an encouraging picture of trends in its United Kingdom annual premium activities.

Between January and June, the world single premium business advanced by 47 per cent to nearly £200m. Growth is partly attributable to a strong performance by the Prudential Investment Bond, whose British sales rose by over 50 per cent to £33m.

But overseas business was also firm, and single premium business more than doubled to £112.4m. The Canadian contribution was particularly marked, chipping in £91m.

The strength of competition for business in Britain is



Brian Corby: overseeing three new divisions

reflected in the fall over the six months for both annual and single premium life and pensions business. Annual premiums fell from £70.7m to £63.7m while single premiums

dropped to £71.8m from £74.9m.

In the annual premium category, total long term life business dropped from £144.9m to £142.8m. On the single premium side, however, total business rose from £135.4m to £199.3m.

Today also sees the effective completion of the group reorganization, with the separation of the Prudential Group's principal subsidiary, Prudential Assurance, into three divisions, comprising UK Individual Business, headed by Mr Tony Freeman; group business, run by Mr Derek Fellows; and overseas business, managed by Mr Brian Medhurst.

The heads of all three divisions will report to Mr Brian Corby, the group chief executive, who will be assisted by a group executive committee.

Budweiser invades UK lager market

By Derek Harris, Commercial Editor

America's best selling beer, Budweiser, will be introduced in Britain on Wednesday - Independence Day in the United States - in one of the most expensive launches of a beer.

In a test market in the TV South area, advertising spending will be the national equivalent of more than £3m, mostly on television commercials, with £2m more on other forms of promotion.

It signals the biggest battle so far in the lager market, the biggest growth sector in beer. It is also part of an increasing invasion by foreign beers as they find growing favour among British drinkers.

Budweiser is being brewed at Halifax by Samuel Webster, part of Grand Metropolitan, and distributed by Watney Mann's national sales division, which sells to off-licences. Budweiser production techniques, developed by Anheuser

- Busch at St Louis, Missouri, have been reproduced in Halifax employing materials like beechwood chips and rice flakes.

Watney's aim is to push Budweiser and Fosters to become joint market leaders.

It is going to be a tough fight in a field of already heavy promotional spending, admits Mr Graeme Falconer, managing director of Watney Mann's national sales division. He said: "Fosters is more of a macho drink, with some cult awareness. Budweiser is expected to sell to both sexes, with the 18-35 age group as the main target."

In the test area, virtually all the big grocery multiples are taking Budweiser, the crucial plank for any success. Eventually, Budweiser might be offered on draught.

Dispensing at the correct cold temperature is important and an innovation in pubs will be the use of Budweiser-branded refrigerators.

Accountants' data base

Chartered accountants will soon have their own computerized data base containing information on tax legislation, technical developments and company accounts.

Delegates to the annual conference of the English Institute of Chartered Accountants, in Cambridge at the weekend were told that the first phase, containing taxation information would be operational next spring.

The system is being devel-

oped jointly by the institute and the European Law Centre, which already runs the successful Eurlex on-line information retrieval system for lawyers.

It will be available to all chartered accountants and should be compatible with most mainframe, mini and micro computers, with a suitable link into a telephone system. Users will pay an initial subscription and must also pay for the time they are linked up to the system at between £60 and £80 an hour.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Broker in provincial expansion

Vickers da Costa, the stockbroking firm, today opens a branch office in Worthing, West Sussex, which it hopes will become the first in a national network.

Mr Colin Richardson, of Vickers said the firm plans more provincial offices in time, either starting from scratch or buying a country broker.

Talks have been held with country brokers, but prices are somewhat steep at the moment, Mr Richardson.

Esso, the British computer software house closely linked with Sinclair, is considering coming to the Unlisted Securities Market next spring. It is likely to be the biggest flotation of a computer company that the USM has seen. Psion made a consolidated pre-tax profit of about £2m on turnover of £10m during the year the end of November 1983 turnover is now about 50 per cent up on last year.

THE NORTH British Steel Group is the latest company to announce plans for withdrawal from Baulgate, the West Lothian town where the British Leyland truck factory is to be run down over two years. The group will close a foundry which has a labour force of about 300 and transfer operations to another plant it owns at Armadale, where 280 people are employed.

NORWAY'S UNEMPLOYMENT rate rose to 3.6 per cent of the total labour force by the end of last month, according to the government's statistics.

Guinness denies bid

Speculation that the drinks combine Arthur Guinness is poised to bid more than £100m for Greene, King and Sons, the Suffolk-based brewer of Abbot Ale, was categorically denied yesterday by Guinness.

A joint statement from both Guinness and Greene, King suggested link-up will be issued to the Stock Exchange today.

Commenting on the rumour, Mr Chris Davidson, head of group public affairs at Guinness, said: "There is absolutely no truth in the story. Greene, King is a customer of ours, and we do not intend to buy it. We have had no talks with the company."

STOCK EXCHANGES

(Change on week)
FT-SE 100 Index: 1041.4 up 8.3
FT 100 Index: 78.43 down 0.06
FT All Share: 487.74 down 2.47
Bergains: 16,792 down 234
Datastream USM Leaders Index: 100.78 down 2.12
New York Dow Jones Average: 1,132.40
Tokyo Nikkei Dow Jones Index: 10,377.97
Hongkong Hang Seng Index: 901.07 down 36.31
Amsterdam: 156.8 up 1.6
Sydney: AO Index 921.4 up 8.7
Frankfurt Commerzbank Index: 1006.8 down 0.7
Brussels: General Index 141.47 up 0.02
Paris: CAC Index 170.01 up 0.3
Zurich: SNA General 29.6 up 0.50

CURRENCIES

(Change on week)
Sterling \$1.3565
Index 78.1 up 0.3
DM 3.7725 up 0.25
Fr 11.5675 up 0.0100
Yen 322.25 up 0.0050
Dollar Index 133.8 down 0.1
DM 2.7815 down 0.0025
NEW YORK
Sterling \$1.3575
Dollar DM 2.7835

INTEREST RATES

Domestic rates:
Bank base rates 9½
Finance houses base rate 9½
Discount market loans week fixed 8½
3 month interbank 9½-9½
Euro-currency rates:
3 month dollar 12½-12½
3 month DM 6-6½
3 month Fr 13-13½-12½
US rates:
Bank prime rate 13.00
Fed funds 11½
Treasury long bond 9½-9½

GOLD

London fixed (per ounce):
am \$375.25 pm \$373.05
close \$373.00-373.50 (\$274.75-275.25)
New York \$372.75
Kruggerand (per coin):
\$384.00-\$385.50 (\$283.00-284.00)
Sovereigns (new):
\$87.50-\$88.50 (\$64.50-65.25)
*Excludes VAT

BOARD MEETINGS

TODAY - Interims: Oakwood Group, SGB Group, Throgmorton Trust and Widney
Finals: Celsion Industries, Great Northern Telegraph Co's Holding Co, Mercury Holdings, Moorgate Mercantile Holdings, Norros, Stoddard Holding and Ward & Goldstone
TOMORROW - Interims: Glass Glover Group, Hadland Holdings, Shires Investments and Vantona Vyella
Finals: General Electric Co (results), Marston, Thompson and Evershed, Pitman and Scottish & Newcastle Breweries
WEDNESDAY - Interims: Wheway Watson Holdings
Finals: Equity Consort Investment Trust, Harrison's Malaysian Plantations, Bernad, Meadow Farm Produce and R. W. Toothill
THURSDAY - Interims: None announced
Finals: Evans of Leeds, Fitch Lovell and Jacksons Bourne End
FRIDAY - Interims: None announced
Finals: A. F. Bulgin & Co and Neesand

USM REVIEW

Born-again Pacific's cash quest

It was in 1960 that Mr Leo Kalisch, a Manchester manufacturer of travel goods, decided to go to the People's Republic of China to explore possibilities of importing leather goods to Britain.

He was so successful that the Hutchison Whampoa Group of Hongkong took over the company 10 years later. The intention was to provide the Pacific Sales Organization with extra capital for faster expansion.

But in 1980 a serious hiccup occurred. Hutchison decided that as so large an amount of Chinese leather goods was available, the expansion in Britain should include small high street retailers as well as the high street multiple stores.

That move proved a disaster. At the same time interest rates soared and the recession deepened. Hutchison decided to get out and sold off the British holdings.

Mr Kalisch took the opportunity in 1982 to buy back the

company. Under the terms of purchase £470,000 was lent back to the company by Hutchison, of which £235,000 is outstanding, repayable at the end of this year.

A complete revamping of Pacific Sales followed. Sales were concentrated back on the major stores. As supplies flow into Pacific throughout the year with 60 per cent of sales concentrated around the Christmas holidays, the group maintains large stocks that have to be financed.

That, and the debt owed to Hutchison, prompted the company to explore the possibility of a USM quote, Pacific soon discovered that being quoted achieved greater customer awareness and credibility and provided access to significant amounts of capital. Consequently, the stockbroking firm

of Laurie, Milbank will offer 1,600,000 10p shares this week at a price still to be determined, representing 32 per cent of the equity.

The prospectus shows the effect of the sharp cutback in turnover and the concentration of sales to the major store groups. Turnover slips from the 1981 peak of £4.5m to an estimated £2.5m for the 18 months to June 30. But net profits improve from 1981's £54,000 to a forecast £300,000 for the 18 months, while next year sees turnover forecast at £3.6m, producing net profits of £390,000.

The brokers are forecasting a prospective p/e of 8.57 by 1985 with a yield somewhere in the region of 8.9 per cent.

More forthcoming and open about the details and price of a new issue is the stockbroking firm Laurence, Prust, which similarly will be bringing a new company to the USM this week. TDS Circuits, established in 1974, claims to be one of Europe's independent manufacturers of high-technology printed circuit boards.

That claim is supported by an impressive record of turnover and profits. In 1979 turnover of £800,000 was producing pretax profits of £174,000. By 1984 turnover had risen to £7.8m producing pretax profits of £1.7m.

Laurence, Prust is offering 1,247,000 ordinary 5p shares at 380p a share, representing 17.8 per cent of the equity and giving a market capitalization of £26.6m.

Earnings per share, after adjustment for the net proceeds of the issue and a 35 per cent tax charge, are given at 17.2p while the price earnings ratio, on the same basis, is given at 14.7. Forecast dividends are 4.9p a share producing a gross dividend yield of 1.8 per cent. Much of the revenue from the share sale will be used to repay bank borrowings.

The shares should be easily achieved and the pricing of the shares has been pegged at a reasonable level.

Wayne Lintott
USM tables, page 18

The French merchant bank in the City of London has made a name for itself.

Société Générale Merchant Bank Limited. The new name for the London merchant bank of Société Générale.

As the only French merchant bank in the City of London - fully recognised by the Bank of England under the Banking Act, 1979 - and the subsidiary of one of France's leading banks, we have a unique position in business between the U.K. and Continental Europe.

Our services encompass the traditional facilities and expertise of a City merchant bank, including securities and investment; credits and syndications; corporate finance and advisory services; new issues and capital market operations; project finance and leasing; foreign exchange and treasury services.

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ORDINARY SHARES

A 'winner' for life offices

The Life Offices' Association will publish in about five weeks' time the totals of members' sales for the second quarter of 1984. These figures will be the first concrete indicator of just how much damage Mr Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor, inflicted on the life insurance industry when he withdrew life insurance industry premium relief (LAPR) in the Budget.

They will not make pleasant reading. Pension business should still be up and may well have been boosted further by sales on May's tax-relief abolition panic. Life business, however, will be down, probably substantially. The quarters to which these numbers will be compared were, of course, exceptionally good.

The second quarter of 1983 saw the surge of mortgage endowment business occasioned by the introduction of Miras.

The imminent announcement of some awful news should always be a cue for the astute investor to prick up his ears, particularly if share prices have already been hammered in anticipation. Such news usually looks worse in prospect than in retrospect. And with plenty of reason to suppose that these figures will paint a bleak picture of likely post-Budget sales prospects, sentiment could well start to warm to thoughts of a better third-quarter performance.

There is, however, a far more fundamental reason why the stock market might start to look at life insurance shares in a different light. And that is pensions.

Mr Norman Fowler, the Secretary of State for Social Services, has been grappling with the so-called "early-leaver"

Chris Hitchings

Life insurance shares

	Growth p.a. 1978-1983	Life profit %	Total profit %	Dividend %	Yield* %
Equity & Law	+22	+22	+24	5.2	
Hambro Life	+22	+22	+27	7.2	
Legal & General	+24	+24	+28	7.1	
Prudential	+21	+21	+19	7.4	
Sun Life	+26	+10	+19	7.3	
	+29	+24	+36	5.1	

* Based on price at June 29 1984 and Hoare Govett forecast dividend for 1984.

problem of employers' group pension schemes since last September. Put in its most basic form this is the employers' pension schemes offer a tremendous deal to employees who stay with one employer for all their career - largely because of this, most employers' group schemes are compulsory.

The two proposed solutions were seen originally as alternatives. The first is to force pension schemes to give their early leavers a better deal. The second is stop then insisting that all employees must join, thus allowing non-members to make their own arrangements, which at present they are not permitted to. The latter option has been christened "portable pensions" because the employee would carry his personal pension plan from job to job.

For a subject so intrinsically so-called as pensions policy, the debate has received a substantial degree of publicity, the bulk of it on the merits of "portable pensions". To a large extent, however, the publicity has concentrated on the point of view of the consumers. The implications to the sales and profits of life insurance companies remained obscure. As

such, they became forgotten in the concerns at the Budget.

However, Mr Fowler is reaching the end of his deliberations and the subject looks likely to move swiftly back to centre-stage. He has already announced that he will implement the recommendations of a report by the Occupational Pensions Board, which urged schemes giving early leavers a better deal. Legislation to this effect will be introduced in the next Parliament. But most important, an announcement is promised soon on whether he will reinforce this by also allowing "portable pensions".

Implementing the OPB report will itself add, on our estimates, some £200m a year to the life industry's revenue. Portable pensions could be considerably more positive than that. The crux of the matter is that, while group pensions is a big market (£1.1 billion a year), it is highly competitive, thus carrying low profit margins, and the life industry's share has declined steadily to, nowadays, about 30 per cent.

The market for portable pensions, however, should be much more attractive for the life industry.

If portable pensions are permitted, new competitors will doubtless emerge but the benefits of existing product, administration and marketing knowledge will count for much. Any movement of employees from group schemes to portable pensions will thus count a sure gain for the life industry's revenue and profits.

Quite how big a gain it will be, and which companies are best placed to take advantage of this, are tricky questions. The stock market has presumed that, since Mr Mark Weinberg of Hambro Life is a strong portable pensions supporter, that company is a clear winner. This is not unreasonable.

It has also presumed that the less enthusiastic response of companies heavily involved in group pensions, such as Legal & General, implies less clear-cut benefits. This is certainly unfair. It is unlikely that the revenue to groups schemes would fall, since those whose benefits are worth least. Also, it would be surprising if the introduction of an element of free choice did not lead to some overall improvement in schemes' benefits, and the real possibilities of more radical rethinking of pension schemes will see such specialists in an excellent position.

The outcome of Mr Fowler's deliberations is as yet unclear. If he opts for portable pensions, however, he will shine a bright spotlight on the life insurance sector. In that glare will be a selection of strong, well-managed companies who will be thanking Mr Fowler with far more gusto than they berated Mr Lawson.

The author is an assistant director of Investment Research at Hoare Govett and responsible for insurance company research.

THE GILT-EDGED MARKET

Prices likely to hold despite setback in US

Geoffrey Finn

Events of the past month demonstrate most vividly the fact that British interest rates, having moved independently of those in the US throughout 1983 and the first quarter of 1984, are now no longer able to ignore developments on the other side of the Atlantic. For example, the rally in the FT Government Securities index, which had recovered by just under 2 per cent from its 1983-84 low of 71.86 on May 30, stood at 79.30 on June 19, was brought to an abrupt halt on June 20.

This was no accident since it was on that day that the US Commerce Department released its "flash" estimate that real gap in the US during the second quarter of 1984 was growing at a greater than expected annualized rate of 5.7 per cent and that the first quarter's annual growth rate had been revised upwards from 8.8 per cent to 9.7 per cent.

Given the prevailing disquieting background of huge US internal budget and external merchandise trade deficits, plus deep-seated worries about Latin-American debt, the last thing the nervous New York financial world wants to hear about these days is vigorous economic expansion. It fears such expansion could lead to overheating and thence to re-kindled inflation and thus to even higher nominal and real interest rates than those prevailing at present.

Despite a reassuring estimate that the American gap price deflator, a widely accepted inflation barometer - had slipped significantly to an annual rate of 2.8 per cent in the second quarter, compared to 3.9 per cent in the first, the US bond market did not take too kindly to the latest gap news.

Prices of long-dated Treasury Bonds, which had rallied quite steadily by between 5 and 6 points from their end-May lows, promptly lost about half of these gains, a setback which was rapidly transmitted to a British gilt market which has begun to display a much greater sensi-

tivity to New York influences.

The inhibiting effect of these adverse overseas financial developments on the British gilt-edged market is all the more regrettable, having regard to the distinct improvement over the past month in several key domestic indicators. Mr Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor, in his Mias lecture on June 18, reaffirmed the Government's determined commitment to the conquest of inflation as the central objective of macro-economic policy and reiterated the ultimate aim of achieving stable prices.

The most recent figures reveal a modest lowering of inflationary pressures which should moderately encourage the Treasury's official optimism. Producer prices during May rose by only 0.4 per cent for an annual rise of 6.1 per cent, down from 6.4 per cent in April, while the year-on-year rise in the retail price index slipped from 5.2 per cent to 5.1 per cent, the first monthly fall since January.

Turning to the monetary front, the latest returns from the Bank of England showed an increase of 0.9 per cent in sterling M3 in the May banking month, roughly half the level of many City forecasts. Compared with the official target of 6 per cent to 10 per cent, this broadly-based aggregate has grown at an annual rate of 10.5 per cent since February and by 8.6 per cent over the past year.

Meanwhile, the recently-introduced narrow money measure M0 is growing at a rate comfortably towards the bottom end of its 4 per cent to 8 per cent target range.

Another better-than-expected indicator was Government borrowing. The Public Sector Borrowing Requirement (PSBR) for May emerged at £1.2 billion, seasonally unadjusted, well below widely-held expectations of £1.5 billion.

Although the cumulative PSBR for the first two months of the financial year, following April's very high figure of £2.4 billion, has reached £3.6 billion - almost half the full year target of £7.25 billion - the official attitude is to remain completely relaxed and to rely on the argument that this financial year's borrowing is set to be heavily front-loaded and will be largely concentrated within the first six months.

Uncertainty over this key factor adds piquancy to the coming negotiations which will soon begin in earnest between the Treasury on the one hand and departmental spending ministers on the other to attempt to keep the 1985-86 public spending plans within the official £131.7 billion target.

Meanwhile, returning to the task of financing the 1984-85 borrowing requirement, the authorities seized upon the opportunity presented by the brief rally in gilt-edged prices

during the first three weeks of June to regain some momentum in their funding programme. During this period, £600m worth of tapets issued at the beginning of June were completely sold out together with a further £200m of low-coupon shorts issued. This was followed last week by the creation of new tranches of £250m Treasury 3 per cent 1978-88 plus £200m each of Treasury 10 per cent 1992 and Conversion 10 per cent 2002. The Government Broker should have no difficulty disposing of these over the next few weeks, thanks to the very high build-up of institutional liquidity.

The Bank of England's public statement last Tuesday that it saw no reason on monetary grounds for a rise in British domestic interest rates should provide a degree of reassurance. However, with sterling trading recently at its record low against the strong dollar and with the four-month rate on the strike nowhere near being resolved, the market will need all the encouragement it can get.

Given the contrasting mix of disquieting overseas news and the relatively reassuring domestic background, it seems unlikely that gilt-edged prices will depart to any great extent in medium term from their recent trading range. The combination of attractive yields and substantial institutional liquidity will probably serve to underpin prices and prevent them from falling below their recent 15 month "low" reached at the end of May.

Any significant recovery this summer from current levels is likely to continue to be impeded by persistent upward pressures on American interest rates. However, for those seeking a high-yielding investment, the best returns are to be found at present on medium-dated maturities such as Exchequer 13½ per cent 1992 which offers a gross redemption yield of 12.26 per cent at its recent price of 109½.

The author is a partner in stockbrokers Rowe & Pitman.

INVESTMENT TRUSTS									
Trust	Price	Yield	Dividend	Yield	Trust	Price	Yield	Dividend	Yield
ABN Bank	100.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	ABN Bank	100.00	10.00	10.00	10.00
Barclays	100.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	Barclays	100.00	10.00	10.00	10.00
BCCI	100.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	BCCI	100.00	10.00	10.00	10.00
Citibank Savings	100.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	Citibank Savings	100.00	10.00	10.00	10.00
Consolidated Crds	100.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	Consolidated Crds	100.00	10.00	10.00	10.00
Continental Trust	100.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	Continental Trust	100.00	10.00	10.00	10.00
H. Hoare & Co	100.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	H. Hoare & Co	100.00	10.00	10.00	10.00
Lloyds Bank	100.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	Lloyds Bank	100.00	10.00	10.00	10.00
Midland Bank	100.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	Midland Bank	100.00	10.00	10.00	10.00
Nat Westminster	100.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	Nat Westminster	100.00	10.00	10.00	10.00
TSB	100.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	TSB	100.00	10.00	10.00	10.00
Williams & Glyn's	100.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	Williams & Glyn's	100.00	10.00	10.00	10.00
Citibank NA	100.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	Citibank NA	100.00	10.00	10.00	10.00

Base Lending Rates	
ABN Bank	9 1/4%
Barclays	9 1/4%
BCCI	9 1/4%
Citibank Savings	9 1/4%
Consolidated Crds	9 1/4%
Continental Trust	9 1/4%
H. Hoare & Co	9 1/4%
Lloyds Bank	9 1/4%
Midland Bank	9 1/4%
Nat Westminster	9 1/4%
TSB	9 1/4%
Williams & Glyn's	9 1/4%
Citibank NA	9 1/4%

FIXED INTEREST STOCKS									
Stock	Price	Yield	Dividend	Yield	Stock	Price	Yield	Dividend	Yield
ABN Bank	100.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	ABN Bank	100.00	10.00	10.00	10.00
Barclays	100.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	Barclays	100.00	10.00	10.00	10.00
BCCI	100.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	BCCI	100.00	10.00	10.00	10.00
Citibank Savings	100.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	Citibank Savings	100.00	10.00	10.00	10.00
Consolidated Crds	100.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	Consolidated Crds	100.00	10.00	10.00	10.00
Continental Trust	100.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	Continental Trust	100.00	10.00	10.00	10.00
H. Hoare & Co	100.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	H. Hoare & Co	100.00	10.00	10.00	10.00
Lloyds Bank	100.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	Lloyds Bank	100.00	10.00	10.00	10.00
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TSB	100.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	TSB	100.00	10.00	10.00	10.00
Williams & Glyn's	100.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	Williams & Glyn's	100.00	10.00	10.00	10.00
Citibank NA	100.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	Citibank NA	100.00	10.00	10.00	10.00

EUROBONDS

Country	Par	Yield	Price	Yield
France	100.00	10.00	100.00	10.00
Germany	100.00	10.00	100.00	10.00
Italy	100.00	10.00	100.00	10.00
Spain	100.00	10.00	100.00	10.00
UK	100.00	10.00	100.00	10.00
US	100.00	10.00	100.00	10.00

APPOINTMENTS

Midland Bank: Mr Dudley Nigg, a partner of Deloitte Haskins and Sells, becomes head of group audit from August 1.

The Post Office: Mr John Duggan has been appointed director of counter automation.

Schroders: Mr William L. M. Turner has become a non-executive director.

Standard Life Assurance Company: Mr G. Drummond Birks, president and chief executive officer of Henry Birks

& Sons, of Montreal, has joined the board.

Refuge Assurance: Mr John H. Sleeman has become a non-executive director.

Gifford and Partners: Mr Alan Tricklebank has been taken into partnership.

Unlisted Securities

UNLISTED SECURITIES

Company	Price	Yield	Dividend	Yield
ABN Bank	100.00	10.00	10.00	10.00
Barclays	100.00	10.00	10.00	10.00
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Unlisted Securities

Court of Appeal

Breach of drawings copyright to copy exhaust pipe

British Leyland Motor Corporation Ltd v Armstrong Patents Co Ltd
Before Lord Justice Waller, Lord Justice Oliver and Lord Justice Finkelstein (delivered June 21)
British Leyland's copyright in their drawings of an exhaust system was infringed when an unauthorized copy was made, without the aid of the drawings of the original pipe, by a village blacksmith, but in modern times it was done by the use of sophisticated machinery which measured the equipment and recorded the relevant co-ordinates which were then fed into a computer-operated bending machine which manipulated the pipe to the exact shape.

It was thus possible to produce pipes which, while not necessarily identical in all respects, had all the relevant characteristics regarding length of straight sections, planes and radii of bends, as the original equipment. The market in spare parts for BLM cars of all types exceeded £800m a year, ninety per cent of the market in exhaust systems was held by seven companies and the defendants held some 7 per cent.

Up to 1972 the car manufacturers appeared to have been quite content to permit the market in spares to develop without protest and without seeking to impose any restraint upon the production of spare parts by reverse engineering.

From 1973 onwards, however, the plaintiffs began to take active steps, which received some publicity, to assert copyright in their designs for parts for BL vehicles and to seek to negotiate with manufacturers who would pay to the plaintiffs a royalty on spares sold.

For many years it had been the practice of manufacturers concerned with the after market to produce replacement exhausts by removing and copying the pipe-run of the original system. Again theoretically, that was something that could be done - and in earlier days no doubt it was done from time to time - by a village blacksmith, but in modern times it was done by the use of sophisticated machinery which measured the equipment and recorded the relevant co-ordinates which were then fed into a computer-operated bending machine which manipulated the pipe to the exact shape.

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From 1973 onwards, however, the plaintiffs began to take active steps, which received some publicity, to assert copyright in their designs for parts for BL vehicles and to seek to negotiate with manufacturers who would pay to the plaintiffs a royalty on spares sold.

A number of substantial manufacturers had in fact entered into licence agreements with the plaintiffs and declined to do so and accordingly these proceedings were commenced on March 30, 1979.

It was not in dispute that the pipe runs of the relevant exhaust systems had been copied by the defendants by mechanical measurement from an original of the relevant co-ordinates and the production of pipe by reference to those co-ordinates.

There was, however, a contest which lay at the heart of the case, namely whether what had been done constituted an infringement of the plaintiffs' artistic copyright in the original drawings of their exhaust systems.

An exhaust system was developed over many months by a system of trial and error to determine the length and shape (that is, flow-line) of the system and to produce replacement exhausts by removing and copying the pipe-run of the original system. Again theoretically, that was something that could be done - and in earlier days no doubt it was done from time to time - by a village blacksmith, but in modern times it was done by the use of sophisticated machinery which measured the equipment and recorded the relevant co-ordinates which were then fed into a computer-operated bending machine which manipulated the pipe to the exact shape.

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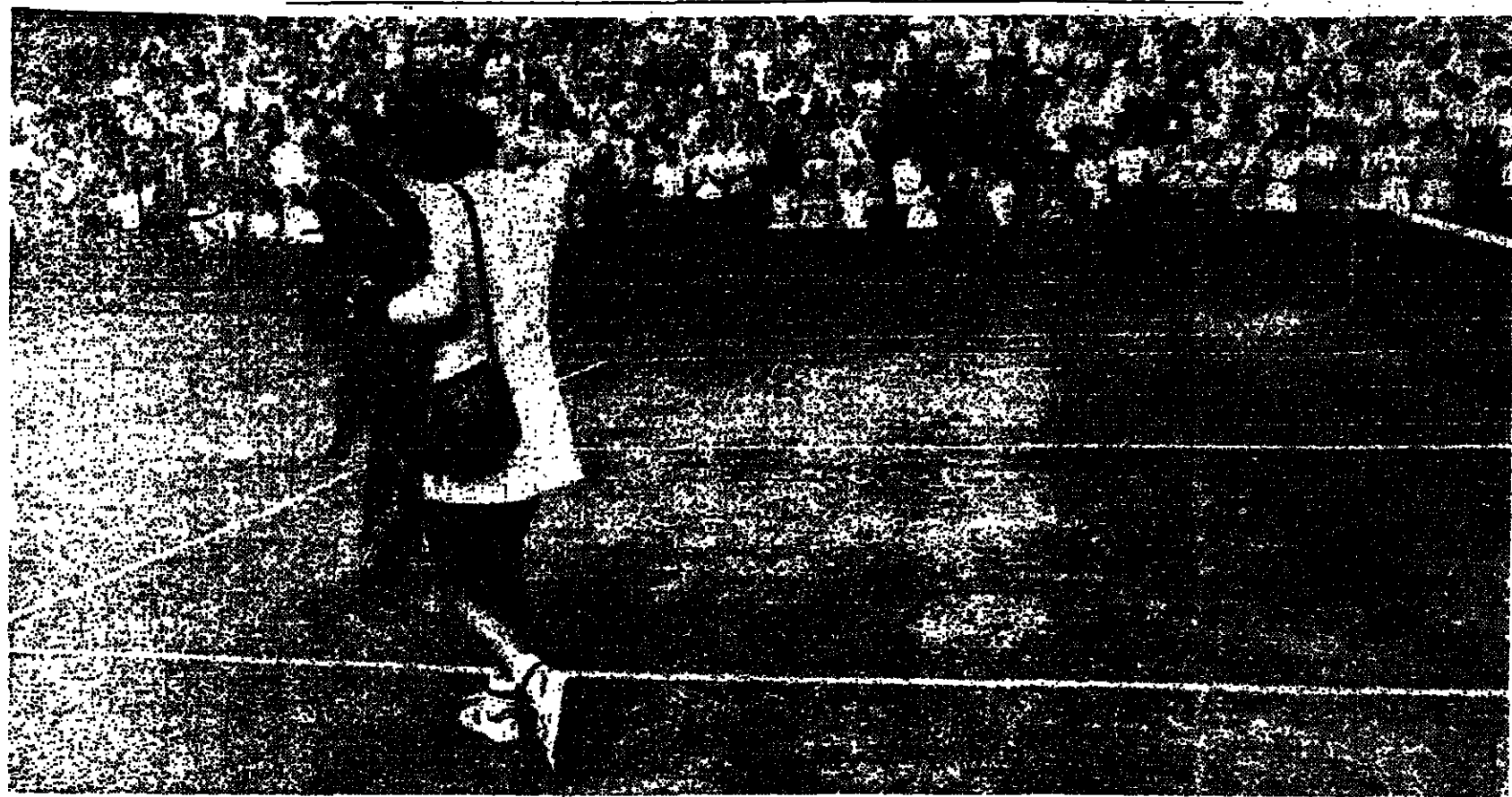
Up to 1972 the car manufacturers appeared to have been quite content to permit the market in spares to develop without protest and without seeking to impose any restraint upon the production of spare parts by reverse engineering.

Section 3(5) of the Copyright Act 1956 defined the acts which were prohibited by the copyright in a drawing. The only material one was (a) reproducing the work in any material form.

That was carried a step further by section 48(1) which defined "reproduction" in the case of an artistic work, as including "a version produced by converting the work into a three-dimensional form, or, if it is in three dimensions, by converting it into a two-dimensional form".

Section 9(8) of the Act provided that "the making of an object of any description which is in

TENNIS: WOMEN PROMINENT AS WIMBLEDON ENTERS ITS SECOND WEEK



Feat worthy of generous hand: Miss Wade departs with honour (Photographs: Chris Smith)

When heroines made up for lost heroes

By Rex Bellamy, Tennis Correspondent

The first week of the Wimbledon championships ended with a day when German teenagers made news and the Swedes found heroine to console them for lost heroes. The second week begins with a parade of 17 former women's champions, to mark the centenary of the first women's singles event. Play will resume today at 12.30, contrary to the organizers' original intention to revert to two o'clock.

There were times last week when it seemed that on almost every court there was a German or alternatively, a player with a German name. Those in the news on Saturday were Boris Becker, aged 16, a hefty, hard-hitting qualifier, and Steffi Graf, aged 15. While strenuously engaged with Bill Scanlon, Becker tore ligaments in his left ankle and was carried

off on a stretcher. Miss Graf has won three matches at the cost of one set to reach the last 16.

The Swedish heroine, an embodiment of the qualities vaguely covered by the word "cute", was Carina Karlsson, aged 20. Miss Karlsson, a qualifier, has played 99 games in three matches. The last of those matches, against Virginia Wade, was so strange and wonderful that, looking back, one suspects the whole thing was an illusion.

Thus were the Swedes compensated for the fact that three of Miss Karlsson's compatriots from the men's singles drawn from the first week. Another newcomer from the qualifying ranks, Paul Annacone, is among the last 16 men.

Britain lost not only Miss Wade but, more predictably, Annabel Croft, aged 17, whose reputation and confidence were

enhanced by an admirable challenge to Chris Lloyd, Jo Durie and Anne Hobbs, whose next opponents will be Miss Graf and Manuela Maleeva, could give Britain two women in the last eight for the first time since 1977.

The success of qualifiers and ground-stroke specialists has been no fluke. As Annacone pointed out, there is such a depth of talent these days that the difference between the qualifiers' competition and most of the main event is not marked as it was.

There has been no hint of a crack in the expected supremacy of Martina Navratilova and John McEnroe. But Miss Navratilova will be wary of her likely semi-final with one of four grass-court experts who have a quarter of the draw to themselves: Pat Shriver, Barbara Potter, Wendy Turnbull and Kathy Jordan.

The top three seeds in the men's singles face potentially tough matches. McEnroe plays Scanlon, who beat him in the United States Championships.

Additional "needle" arises from the fact that they dislike each other. Scott Davis, aged 21, may already be a better grass-court player than Ivan Lendl, Jimmy Connors opposes Tim Mayotte.

On Saturday there was sadness in the nature of Becker's departure and in the news that Kevin Curran's father had died. Curran is battling on, in singles and doubles, because he thinks his father would have wanted it that way. But there was joy, too, in its most concentrated form during the two hours and 16 minutes occupied by Miss Karlsson's 6-4, 6-1, 6-2 win over Miss Wade.

The quality of the tennis was not exceptional but everything else was. A week tomorrow Miss Wade will be 39. She played as if half that age - in spite of racing from corner to corner in pursuit of Miss Karlsson's booming drives down the lines. It was hot, too. But it seemed that for this third consecutive round Miss Wade

having lost the first set, might bounce back to win. In the third set she was serving for a 5-2 lead and at 5-3 she served for the match.

This may have been Miss Wade's last Wimbledon singles. Her career there began in 1962. There is still much of the boisterous schoolgirl in Miss Wade and there is even more of it in the slimy built Miss Karlsson, who looks younger than her years. Miss Karlsson kept grinning impishly at her coach, Sven Davidson, who was looking on like a film director.

When serving, Miss Karlsson squeaked like a mouse or a bat or one of those rubber toy animals children play with. She had a pigtail, a red bandana, a patchwork shirt in five colours, and - if you please - boots. Perhaps the word booties would better suit Miss Karlsson's personality.

The whole joyous affair was like something out of schoolgirl fiction: on the one hand a strongly built athlete with a glinting past and, on the other, a charming tomboy with nothing to lose. If Miss Wade had to go, this was as good a way as any to do it.

FRENCH RACING

Piggott and Teenoso so brave in success

From Desmond Stoweham, French Racing Correspondent, Paris

Lester Piggott rode one of his greatest races when he partnered Teenoso to win yesterday's Grand Prix de Saint-Cloud. With blood pouring down his right cheek, Piggott produced one of his strongest finishes to beat Fly Me by a short neck with Esprit du Nord two lengths away third in front of Luth Enobach, Magwal and the favourite, Romildo.

Just as the 11 runners for the 12½-furlong Grand Prix were ending their parade in front of the stands, Teenoso whipped round to go to the start and his head hit Piggott on his right eye. He was given temporary medical aid before the start and after the race it was not found necessary to stitch two cuts above and below his right eye.

Much of the running was made by River Or but Bryn Crossley, on Teenoso's pacemaker, Mill Plantation, was never far away with Teenoso just off the pace. River Or tried to slow the pace rounding the final turn but Crossley would have none of it and immediately took Mill Plantation into the lead.

After a quiet evening the straight, Piggott headed for the line on Teenoso who was initially challenged by Garde Royale, Esprit du Nord and Magwal and during the final furlong by Freddie Head and Fly Me. In the game of fashion, Teenoso held on to his advantage until the post.

Piggott said: "He hated the firm ground and in a most game horse, Geoffrey Wragg, Teenoso's trainer, said: 'Now it is the King George but we will be back in France for the Arc de Triomphe. A lot of credit must go to Crossley and his assistant riding and to the clerk of the course who did his best to take the sting out of the ground.'

Piggott did not quite stay and Andre Fabre will now train this filly for the Arc with a preparation race in the Prix Foy. Esprit du Nord was given every chance by Gary Moore, but was a little out of sync in the final two furlongs.

Intended runner for the King George VI and Queen Elizabeth Diamond Stakes at Ascot on July 20, Saturday's Prix Daphnis at Evry went to Patoz Music by a nose from Seattle Song with Enchanted Castle a fast-finishing third in front of Falstaff who faded in the final furlong.

Saint-Cloud details

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Portfolio

TV 'Biggles' man wins £2,000

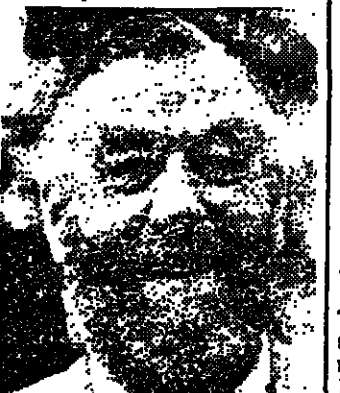
The man who bought Biggles to Britain's television screens won £2,000 in *The Times* Portfolio competition on Saturday. Mr Ronald Caris Carter successfully claimed the prize in the daily competition. There was no winner of the £20,000 weekly prize, which means that next Saturday £40,000 could be won in the weekly competition. Saturday's winner lives in Dolphin Square, London's biggest and arguably most fashionable apartment complex. He has worked in show business for most of his life since leaving the Navy in 1949. Mr Caris Carter worked at the Windmill Theatre at the peak of its fame; on one night when he was acting as assistant stage manager he had Harry Secombe, Michael Bentine, Alfred Marks and Jimmy Edwards on the same bill, and was paid £8 a week for keeping them all in line.

Mr Caris Carter, known professionally as "Nick" after Nick Carter, the hero of the *Thin Man* detective films, returned to the Navy for six years before rejoining the world of entertainment. His highest coup was to buy the rights for the *Biggles* series of novels from W. E. Johns. "I don't like your stories but I do like your characters," he told Group Captain Johns.

Readers who have been unable yet to obtain their copy of the *Times Portfolio* should write to:

The Times Portfolio,
PO Box 40,
Blackburn BB1 6AJ,
enclosing a stamped addressed envelope.

● Today's Portfolio list, page 16.
● Readers are reminded when calculating each day's total to subtract any minutes from the total of pluses.



Mr Caris Carter: In show business.

Handing on the care of architectural history



American tourists flood in

By Robin Young

The Americans are "over here" in numbers seldom seen since the Second World War, and every five pounds takes against the dollar makes it more likely that this year will break all records for American tourists in Britain.

Already it is known that while arrivals of foreign visitors were up by one eighth in the early part of the year, it was the Americans who led the way with an increase of 29 per cent over last year's numbers.

The British Tourist Authority estimates that by the end of the year more than two and a half million Americans will have descended on these shores, but if the trend of the first third of the year is maintained that figure could easily be exceeded.

The more cautious London Tourist Board, is not so sure that the capital will attract more Americans than it drew in 1977 and 1978 - about 1.6 million. While not denying the abundant evidence that there are a lot of Americans about

the board says there is a tendency for them to bypass London and explore elsewhere. That is modest. The latest figures show that still nearly four fifths of American tourists spend at least one night in London. Other regions are lucky if they see as many as one tenth of the total.

Americans are distinguished not only by their tartan trousers or blue-hair rises. They also spend more money, stay longer, and are more likely to return. The average American puts almost two-and-a-half times as much in British tills as does that of the average visitor from EEC countries.

The Americans are with us an average of 11 days, and they spend nearly twice as much a day as do their European counterparts. Two fifths of the Americans are on return visits, which accounts for their deeper penetration to parts of the country that have seen fewer in the past.

According to the British Tourist Authority Yorkshire is

proving more popular this year, because of transatlantic interest in *Brideshead Revisited* and the countryside described by James Hanley.

Americans are particularly attracted by history, culture, scenery and people.

Theatre managers have acknowledged the Americans' role in sustaining shows through summer. Disconcertingly for managers with theatres teetering on the brink of darkness, the Americans this year more than ever are favouring Broadway hits.

At *Cats* and *On Your Toes*, both of which are playing to full houses, Americans are filling almost a third of the seats.

The American invasion has put the pressure on three and four star hotels. The Dorchester, in Park Lane, and the Savoy, where the proportion is slightly lower, says visitors from the United States are taking a tenth more of the fully subscribed accommodation than they did last year.

Extradition pressure on Spain

Continued from page 1

ended up by refusing to extradite him.

Scotland Yard could not confirm yesterday whether protests will be made to the Spanish authorities over revelations of a secret central robbery squad linking Britons living in Spain with the robberies (Stewart Tindler, Crime Reporter, writes).

Details of investigations into bank accounts and the life styles of five men were described at the weekend in the Spanish magazine, *El Tiempo*.

Scotland Yard officers are understood to feel such information compromise months of work.

It is understood that three men were ruled out by the inquiry at an early stage but another two are still at the centre of police interest. One is Mr Ronald Knight, estranged husband of the actress, Barbara Windsor.

Curator's farewell: Sir John Summerson in Sir John Soane's Museum at Lincoln's Inn Fields, London, where he has been curator for almost 40 years. He retires next month and his successor will be announced this week (Charles Knevitt writes).

The post has always gone to one of the country's leading architectural historians although, Sir John confides, some of his predecessors were rather more conscientious about it than others. It is a part-time appointment, involving three days a week, but Sir John, aged 79, has always gone in every day.

What qualities did he look for in a new curator? "An excellent knowledge of Soane's work, as well as English architecture of the eighteenth and early-nineteenth century, a keen interest in the techniques of conservation."

(Photograph: Barry Beattie).

Letters from Jerusalem

Dialogue of inanity for floating voters

Israeli television viewers, after being left last week with no programmes other than those beamed from Jordan because of a strike, tuned in with more customary relief for the first of the nightly political broadcasts. These are the centrepieces of the campaign for the July 23 general election.

What they saw said a lot about the trivialization of Israeli politics, and about the messages which the parties hope will swing over to their side the estimated 100,000 floating voters whose support will be vital to whichever group forms the new government after July 23.

Apart from some grumbling shots of the Sabra and Chatila massacre transmitted by the left-wing Shinui Party, and some timely reminders of the unresolved Lebanon war, provided by the same group during its impressive four-minute film, the rest was largely light-hearted stuff.

The main opposition Labour Party, which according to the polls stands a strong chance of regaining the power it lost seven years ago, concentrated attention on trying to settle one of its main campaign problems - the unhappy personal image of its elected leader, Mr Shimon Peres, who led the party defeat in both 1977 and 1981.

A smiling Mr Peres was shown with his photogenic grandson (plus Teddy bear) and telling the attractive Israeli actress Etti Shaloni about the spot where he most likes to sit in the kitchen of his Tel Aviv home. His wife, Sonia, who is known to dislike publicity, was absent from the heart warming scenes of domesticity.

Boosting the Labour cause - and no doubt prompting distress in the camp of the ruling right-wing Likud coalition - was a team of popular Israeli comedians, the Hagashash Hahivri Trio, who are reportedly receiving a sum of around \$300,000 (about £220,000) for their appearances on behalf of the Opposition.

The Likud, which can attribute much of its success at the two previous elections to slick advertising, was generally regarded to have come off second best on the opening night - devotion too much time to boring aerial shots of Israel and the occupied West Bank. Its own star show

business performer, Mr Sephi Rivlin (reported fee \$220,000) was no yet in evidence.

Likud's most controversial vote catcher, the former Defence Minister Mr Ariel Sharon, only appeared briefly and a regular theme was shots of the Star of David, presumably intended to back up one of the party's slogans "We are the national camp".

The banality and crude gimmickry of most of the films was later bitterly criticized by Mr Mordechai Virshubski, one of two Shinui deputies in the last Parliament, who said that the party had received scores of telephone calls from Israelis praising its serious approach.

"The two main parties, with the benefit of taxpayers' money, seemed to be saying in effect: 'You stupid voter, let's befuddle your mind with this third rate trivia and you will vote the way that we say,'" Mr Virshubski complained. "The fact that Mr Peres has a cuddly grandchild tells people nothing about the vital issues now at stake here."

The political commercial - which came complete with lingering shots of husky surfers on Tel Aviv beach and jingles based on various military marches - were also roundly attacked by the *Jerusalem Post* which stated: "The slick TV staffers have failed to take election advertising off the screen. Unfortunately."

The newspaper, which normally supports Labour, protested: "In adopting this American art form, Israel's parties have gone beyond the model. For in the US, each party wages its own campaign, as if they were selling their own beer. In Israel, the parties respond to each other's adverts establishing a dialogue of inanity."

With three weeks of campaigning still to go, Labour and Likud have more than 500 minutes of air time between them to fill, while each of the other 22 competing parties is entitled to 10 minutes apiece, plus six extra minutes for each seat that it won in the last Knesset.

As one disappointed Jerusalemite who has not yet decided how to vote remarked: "Unless the standard improves on the first night, I can see these broadcasts doing a lot to boost Jewish audience figures for Jordan TV."

Christopher Walker

THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

Today's events

Royal engagements

The Queen, accompanied by The Duke of Edinburgh, opens the new library extension at Napier College, Edinburgh, 3.10; attends reception to mark the 20th anniversary of the foundation of the Society of Solicitors in the Supreme Courts of Scotland in the library at Parliament House, Edinburgh, 6.30; Princess Anne, Patron of the Riding for the Disabled Association, visits Drum Riding Centre for the Disabled Trust, Gilmerton, Edinburgh, 2.30.

burgh, to celebrate the Trust's silver jubilee, 2.30.

Princess Margaret, as President of the Victoria League for Commonwealth Friendship, attends a dinner at New Zealand House, for those attending a seminar on "The Commonwealth Traveller in Britain", 8.10.

Princess Alice, Duchess of Gloucester visits the Royal Agricultural Society of England Show, Stoneleigh, Warwickshire, 10.30.

The Duke and Duchess of Kent attend the Ladies Champion Parade, Wimbledon, 12.05.

New exhibitions

People and Places, Library Gallery, Guildford Lawn, Ramsgate, Kent: Mon to Wed 9.30 to 6, Thurs to Sat 9.30 to 5, closed Sun; (from today until Aug 4).

Paintings and sculptures by Tim Romeny, Peacock Gallery, Tullygally Road, Craggavore, Northern Ireland: Mon to Fri 10 to 5; (from today until July 13).

Musée

Organ recital by John R Turner, Glasgow Cathedral, 7.30.

Concert by Woodfalls Band, Wells Cathedral, 8.

Roads

London and south-east: A1006: Lane closure on Long Blackmore Road and South Fore Road, Walthamstow, A214: Single lane traffic with lights in Beckenham, 9.30am to 4pm daily.

Middlesex and East Angles: A12: Contraflow between Ipswich and Colchester at Bentley, Suffolk, A49: Single lane traffic with lights at Woolferton, Shropshire, A52: Single lane traffic with lights between Northingham and Grantham at Muston Bends, Leicestershire.

North: M180: Lane closures on Scunthorpe by-pass between junctions 3 and 4, M6: Roadworks between junctions 41 and 44 in Cumbria, M56: Weekday lane closures between junctions 15 and 16.

Wales and West: M5: Weekday lane closures between junctions 21 and 22.

Scotland: A8: Lane closures on Prince's Street, Edinburgh, 9 am to 4 pm.

Ferry dispute

Sealink ferry services between Holyhead and Dun Laoghaire near Dublin have been suspended indefinitely because of a strike by the National Union of Seamen.

Parliament today

Commons (2.30): Debate on New Ireland Forum.

Lords (2.30): Police and Criminal Evidence Bill, committee, second day.

Pollen forecast

Aberdeen low 9 am to noon

Belfast low 9 am to noon

Birmingham low 9 am to noon

Bristol low 9 am to noon

Cardiff low 9 am to noon

Edinburgh low 9 am to noon

Exeter low 9 am to noon

Gloucester low 9 am to noon

Harrogate low 9 am to noon

Leeds low 9 am to noon

London low 9 am to noon

Manchester low 9 am to noon

Nottingham low 9 am to noon

Sheffield low 9 am to noon

Southampton low 9 am to noon

Stoke-on-Trent low 9 am to noon

Swansea low 9 am to noon

Torquay low 9 am to noon

Warrington low 9 am to noon

Widnes low 9 am to noon

Wolverhampton low 9 am to noon

Worcester low 9 am to noon

York low 9 am to noon

The pound

Australia \$	1.62	1.55
Belgium F	80.25	78.75
Canada \$	1.22	1.17
Denmark kr	14.33	13.83
France F	6.57	6.27
Germany DM	3.29	3.10
Italy L	168.50	167.50
Japan ¥	234.00	232.00
Netherlands Gld	4.40	4.18
Portugal Esc	111.4	107.4
Spain Ptas	166.50	161.50
Sweden Kr	11.40	10.90
Switzerland Fr	1.37	1.31
USA \$	1.51	1.44

Retail Price Index: 261.0.

London: The FT index closed up 10.8 on Friday at 1917.1.

New York: The Dow Jones industrial average closed up 5.85 on Friday at 1132.40.

Anniversaries

Birth: Jacopo Sansone, sculptor and architect, Florence, 1486.

Thomas Cranmer, archbishop of Canterbury 1533-56.

Bond winners

Winning numbers in the weekly draw for Premium Bond prizes are: £100,000: 682 423046 (tenfold); £50,000: 10XZ 131945 (Reading); £25,000: SLW 263032 (Cambridge).

Times Portfolio rules

Times Portfolio rules are as follows:

1 Times Portfolio is free.

2 Purchase of *The Times* is a condition of taking part.

3 The Portfolio list comprises a group of public companies whose shares are listed on The Stock Exchange and quoted in *The Times*.

4 The companies comprising that list will change from day to day.

5 Times Portfolio "dividend" will be the figure in pence, which represents the optimum movement in prices (i.e. largest increase or lowest loss) of any combination of 8 of the 40 shares which, on any day, comprise *The Times* Portfolio list.

6 The daily dividend will be announced each day and the weekly dividend will be announced each Saturday in *The Times*.

7 Times Portfolio list and details of the daily or weekly dividend will also be available for inspection at the offices of *The Times*.

8 If the overall price movement of more than one combination of shares equals the dividend, the prize will be equally divided among the claimants holding those combinations of shares.

9 All claims are subject to scrutiny before payment. Any Times Portfolio card that is defaced, tampered with or incorrectly printed in any way will be declared void.

10 Employees of News International plc and its subsidiaries and of European Group Limited (producers and distributors of the card) or members of their immediate families are not allowed to play Times Portfolio.

11 All participants will be subject to these Rules. All instructions on "how to play" and "how to claim" whether published in *The Times* or

Nature notes

There is scarcely any regular bird movement at this time of year, but unexpected birds still turn up anywhere in Britain: a purple heron that should be in Spain, a brambling that should be in Norway, a Mediterranean gull that should be on the Black Sea. Most breeding birds now have young, either in or out of the nest: long-tailed tit families are already beginning to link up in flocks in the woods. Young sand-martins are flying with their parents over rivers and gravel pits: the adult will soon start a second brood, in holes burrowed in the sand or in cracks under bridges. The heads of young house-martins fill the eaves of old mud-castles under the eaves the parents still feed them indefatigably, but they will soon be fledge and independent.

Foxgloves are out: usually a few white specimens can be found among the clumps of purple spikes. The flowers have a leopards-claw pattern on their lower lip: bumblebees alight on these nectar-guides, and follow them deep into the heart of the flower. Rough chervil, a poisonous relative of cow parsley is growing tall in waste places like hemlock, it has purple blotches on its stem.

DJM

Weather forecast

An anticyclone will be slow-moving to W of British Isles as a trough over NE England moves S.

6am to midnight

London: SE, E, central N England, East Angles: Mild, mainly cloudy, showers, some sunny intervals; wind N, moderate; max temp 17 or 18°C (63 or 64°F).

Central S, NE England, W Midlands, Cheshire, Lancashire, Derbyshire, Yorkshire: Mild, mainly cloudy, showers, some sunny intervals; wind N, moderate; max temp 16 or 17°C (61 or 63°F).

SE England, East Angles, Kent, Essex, Surrey, Sussex, Hampshire, Dorset, Devon, Cornwall: Mild, mainly cloudy, showers, some sunny intervals; wind N, moderate; max temp 15 or 16°C (59 or 61°F).

Wales, S Wales, S Wales, S Wales: Mild, mainly cloudy, showers, some sunny intervals; wind N, moderate; max temp 15 or 16°C (59 or 61°F).

Scotland: Mild, mainly cloudy, showers, some sunny intervals; wind N, moderate; max temp 15 or 16°C (59 or 61°F).

Ireland: Mild, mainly cloudy, showers, some sunny intervals; wind N, moderate; max temp 15 or 16°C (59 or 61°F).

Forecast for tomorrow and Wednesday: Mild, mainly cloudy, showers, some sunny intervals; wind N, moderate; max temp 15 or 16°C (59 or 61°F).

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